WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE
PLANET COMICS
FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES
10¢
No. 14
SEPT.
BUZZ CRANDALL
IN A SMASHING PLANETARY ADVENTURE
"CASTAWAYS OF THE SWAMP STAR"
AURO—LORD OF JUPITER
GALE ALLEN OF THE SPACE PATROL
REEF RYAN—EXPLORER ON NEPTUNE
AND MANY OTHER EXCITING FEATURES
ZOLA ROWICH

FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES

GOONY AND GLORIOUS AND CRAZY-WINGED AS EVER **GREASE-MONKEY GRIFFIN** SKYLARKS TO BATTLE AGAINST HALF THE LUFT-WAFFE... DEEP IN PANAMA'S CROCODILE GLADES, **F-4**, HIGH FLYING OFFICER OF THE **AIR INTELLIGENCE** SMASHES A FIFTH COLUMN LAIR... OVER OLD ENGLAND A HOODOOED **R.A.F. ACE** FLASHES 5000 FEET IN A HAIR-RAISING STAB AT HIS PURSUING JINX.

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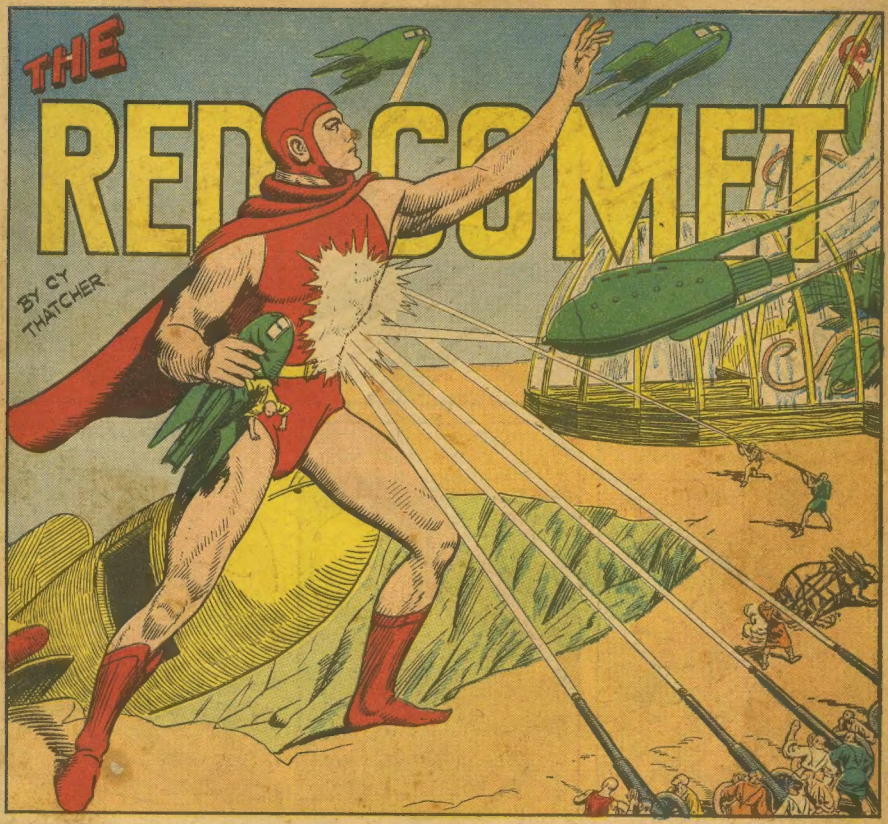
THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 15, NOV.) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND SEPT. 10th.

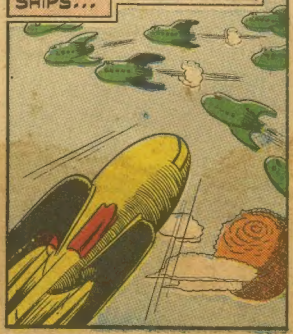
THE RED COMET

BY CY THATCHER

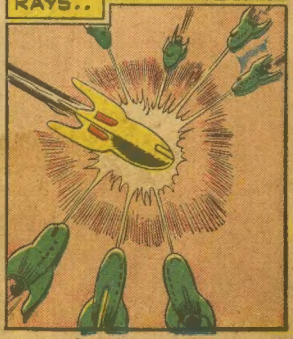


STRANGELY, VITAL FOOD SHIPMENTS FROM ARCHON TO EARTH CEASE. THE RED COMET IS SENT TO INVESTIGATE.

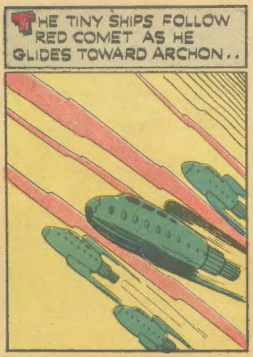
AS RED COMET NEARS ARCHON HE SEES A FLEET OF TINY ROCKET SHIPS...

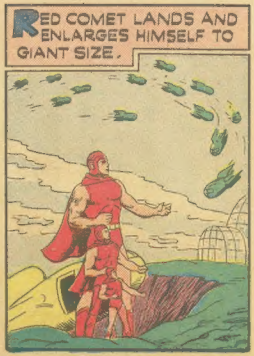


THE SHIPS DIVE AT THE RED COMET, BLASTING HIS SHIP WITH DISINTEGRO RAYS..



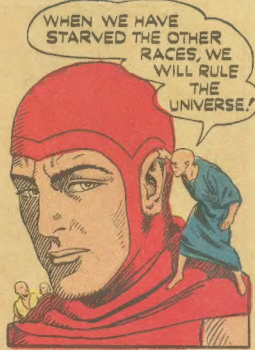
THOSE RAYS WILL DESTROY MY SHIP! I'LL HAVE TO LAND!


THE TINY SHIPS FOLLOW RED COMET AS HE GLIDES TOWARD ARCHON..

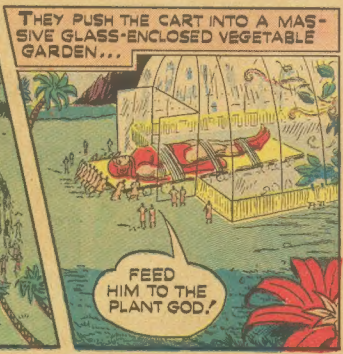

RED COMET LANDS AND ENLARGES HIMSELF TO GIANT SIZE.

THE LITTLE SHIPS CONTINUE FIRING AT HIM...

SUBDUED BY THEIR RAYS RED COMET IS BOUND BY THE MIGES..


WHEN WE HAVE STARVED THE OTHER RACES, WE WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE!

THE MIGES PLACE HIM ON A WAGON.
TO THE HOT HOUSE WITH HIM!


THEY PUSH THE CART INTO A MASSIVE GLASS-ENCLOSED VEGETABLE GARDEN...
FEED HIM TO THE PLANT GOD!

THE TENTACLES OF A HUGE CANNIBAL PLANT REACH TOWARD HIM...

RED COMET GROWS SMALL AND SLIPS OUT OF HIS BONDS.

NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT AS HE STARTS TO ESCAPE THE FIENDISH TENTACLE COILS ABOUT HIS BODY.

WITH SUPER HUMAN EFFORT, RED COMET FREES HIMSELF.

AS HE MAKES A SECOND DASH FOR FREEDOM

...ANOTHER CHOKING ARM OF THE PLANT WRAPS AROUND HIS NECK!

RED COMET SNATCHES UP A GARDENER'S KNIFE AND HACKS THE TENTACLE IN TWO...

HE HURLS THE KNIFE THROUGH THE GLASS WALL...

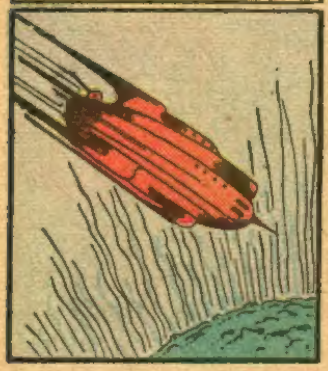
AND AS THE MAN-EATING PLANT GROPES TOWARD HIM AGAIN, HE DIVES THROUGH THE GLASS!

RED COMET RECOVERS THE KNIFE AND HEADS INTO THE JUNGLE.

HE PUSHES SWIFTLY THROUGH THE DENSE VEGETATION.
AS HE PAUSES TO REST...
THE BEAST'S FANGS STRIKE FOR RED COMET'S THROAT!
BUT RED COMET KICKS OUT WITH GREAT FORCE!
THE MONSTER ATTACKS AGAIN!
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
HIDDEN, RED COMET SEES TWO OF THE EVIL MIGES.
WE MUST CAPTURE THE RED GIANT!
RED COMET SPRINGS OUT!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
THE OTHER LEAPS FROM BEHIND...
4

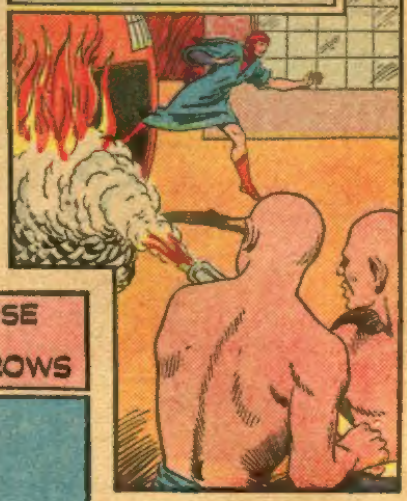
HE LANDS WITH ALL HIS WEIGHT ON RED COMET'S BACK...
RED COMET IS STUNNED FOR A MOMENT!
NOW I FINISH YOU!
SORRY, BUT I DO ALL THE FINISHING AROUND HERE!.
RED COMET TAKES THE MIGE'S CLOTHES...
THESE MIGHT BE A LITTLE TIGHT!
DISGUISED, HE REACHES THE ROCKET PORT...
ARCHON SPACEWAYS
NOW TO FIND AN EMPTY SHIP!
HE GETS A SHIP AND CRASHES OUT.
SPACEWAY
DISCOVERING HIS ESCAPE, THE MIGES ZOOM IN PURSUIT.
RED COMET DIVES INTO THEIR MIDST... THE MIGES BLAST THEIR OWN SHIPS!
ELUDING THE REST RED COMET LEAVES ARCHON FAR BEHIND...
5

RED COMET HEADS FOR MERCURY TO SEEK THE AID OF THE FIRE PEOPLE..



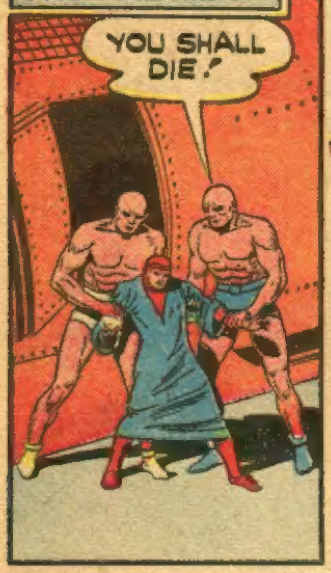
AS HE LANDS, THE FIRE MEN SPRAY THE SHIP WITH FLAMING GAS.

RED COMET LEAPS FROM THE BURNING SHIP...

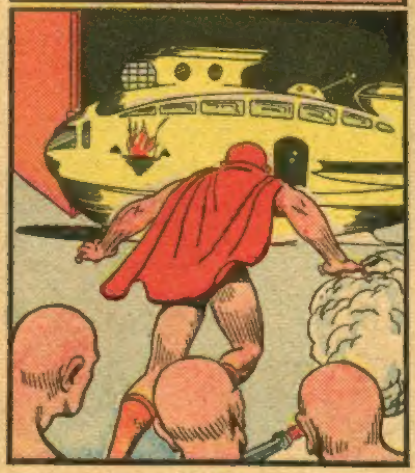


SEIZING THE FIRE-THROWING HOSE RED COMET BURSTS FROM THE MIGE'S ROBE AND INSTANTLY GROWS TO A GIANT SIZE.!

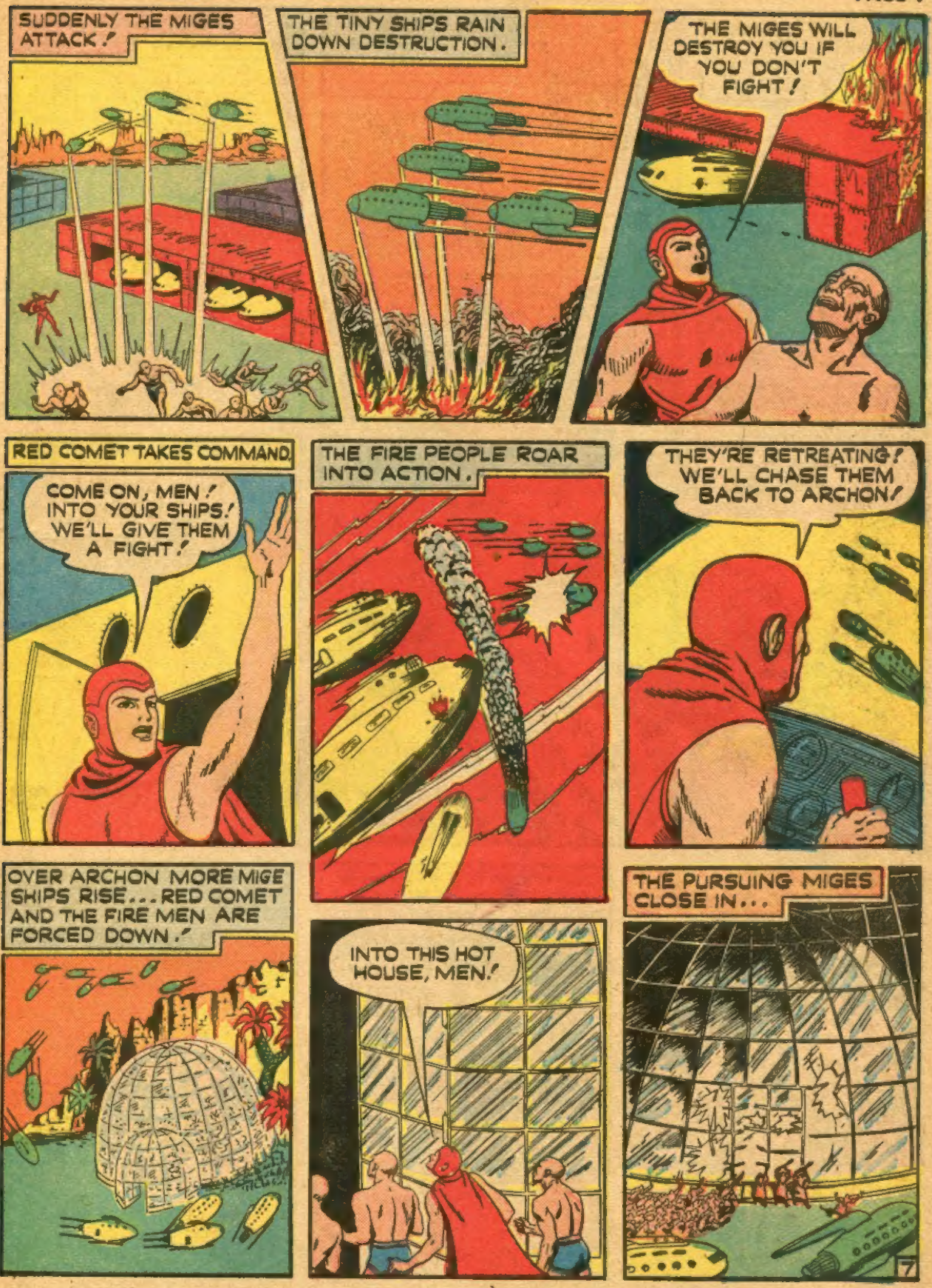
HE IS GRABBED BY TWO FIRE MEN.!



DROPPING THE FLAMING HOSE, RED COMET DASHES TOWARD A SPACE SHIP...



THE FIRE MEN GRAB UP THE FIERY HOSE AND AIM IT AT THE RED COMET.!


SUDDENLY THE MIGES ATTACK!
THE TINY SHIPS RAIN DOWN DESTRUCTION.
THE MIGES WILL DESTROY YOU IF YOU DON'T FIGHT!
RED COMET TAKES COMMAND
COME ON, MEN! INTO YOUR SHIPS! WE'LL GIVE THEM A FIGHT!
THE FIRE PEOPLE ROAR INTO ACTION.
THEY'RE RETREATING! WE'LL CHASE THEM BACK TO ARCHON!
OVER ARCHON MORE MIGE SHIPS RISE... RED COMET AND THE FIRE MEN ARE FORCED DOWN.
INTO THIS HOT HOUSE, MEN!
THE PURSUING MIGES CLOSE IN...
7

RED COMET DISCOVERS A MASSIVE DOOR...

GOOD THING WE HAVE A FIRE HOSE! TURN IT ON THAT DOOR!

AS THE DOOR CRUMBLES, OUT RUSH THE VEGETABLE PEOPLE OF ARCHON...

THE MIGES HAVE KEPT US PRISONERS!

THEY CARRY HUGE CANNIBAL PLANTS WHICH THEY LEARNED TO HANDLE SAFELY...

LOOK! OUR ENEMIES, THE MIGES!

THEY HURL THE PLANTS, WHICH COIL THEIR DEADLY TENTACLES ABOUT THE EVIL MIGES...

THE MIGES' CHIEF CLIMBS THROUGH THE GLASS BEHIND RED COMET!

DIE, EARTHMAN!

RED COMET WHIRLS AND FELLS THE MIGE WITH A SMASHING BLOW!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE!

LOADING A SPACE FREIGHTER WITH FOOD FOR EARTH, RED COMET WAVES FAREWELL.

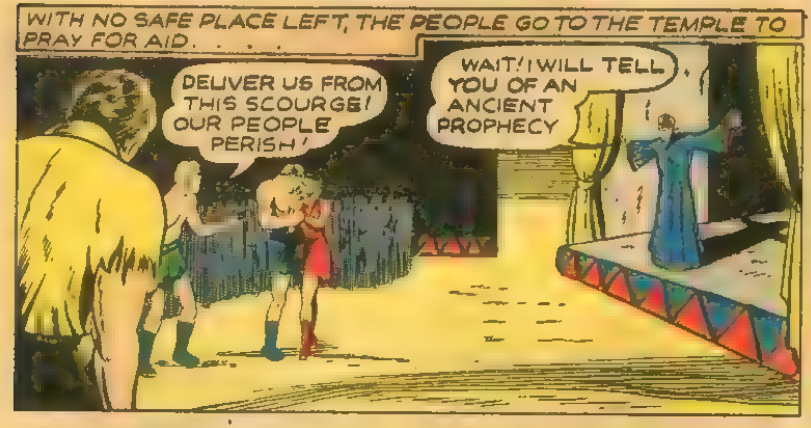
RED COMET APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS

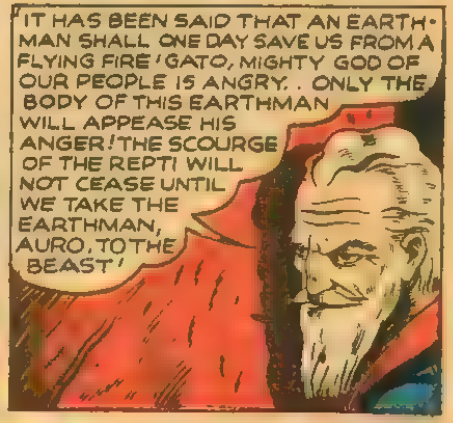
PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

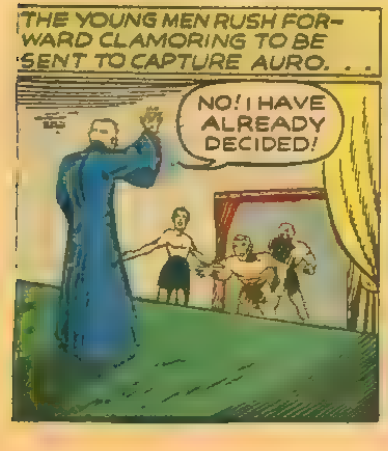
AURO Lord of Jupiter

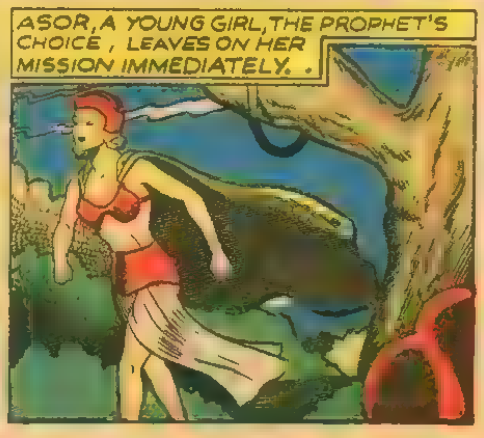
BY Flynn Wilson

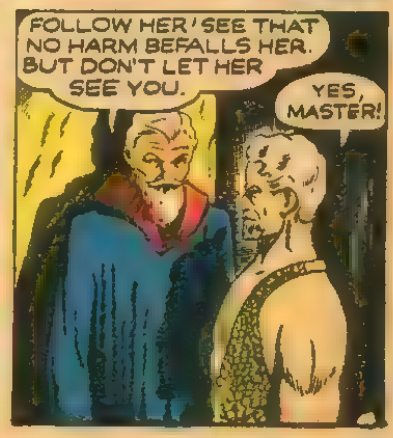
IN THE FAR EASTERN PART OF JUPITER LIVES A RACE OF PEOPLE WHOSE LIFE IS SPENT IN THE SEMI-DARKNESS OF THAT AREA. . . THEY OWE NO ALLEGIANCE TO AURO. . . . BUT THE TIME COMES WHEN FROM OUT OF THE GLOOM-FILLED MARSHY CAVERNS OF THEIR COUNTRY COMES A SCOURGE OF INSECTS THE REPTI! THEY ATTACK PEOPLE, KILL SOME, AND INFECT OTHERS WITH A DEADLY DISEASE. . . .


WITH NO SAFE PLACE LEFT, THE PEOPLE GO TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY FOR AID. . . . .
DELIVER US FROM THIS SCOURGE! OUR PEOPLE PERISH!
WAIT! I WILL TELL YOU OF AN ANCIENT PROPHECY


IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT AN EARTHMAN SHALL ONE DAY SAVE US FROM A FLYING FIRE 'GATO, MIGHTY GOD OF OUR PEOPLE IS ANGRY. . ONLY THE BODY OF THIS EARTHMAN WILL APPEASE HIS ANGER! THE SCOURGE OF THE REPTI WILL NOT CEASE UNTIL WE TAKE THE EARTHMAN, AURO, TO THE BEAST!







AT LAST ASOR FINDS AURO IN HIS JUNGLE HIDE-OUT. SHE TELLS HIM A FALSE TALE OF WOE. . . . .

AURO, PLEASE HELP ME! MY WICKED BROTHER HAS STOLEN MY INHERITANCE AND DRIVEN ME INTO THE FOREST!

DON'T WORRY I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM! SHOW ME WHERE HE IS.

AS THEY NEAR THE CITY, ASOR WALKS AHEAD. . . . .

BE CAREFUL! THE GROUND ISN'T STEADY HERE!

SUDDENLY THE EARTH GIVES WAY AND SHE DROPS DOWN THE SIDE OF THE DEEP CHASM.

HELP!

WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, AURO ACTS. JUMPING OVER THE CHASM'S EDGE, HE GRASPS THE LIMB OF A TREE. . . . .

AND CATCHES HER IN THE NICK OF TIME. . . .

AURO AND ASOR BOUND BACK TO SAFETY JUST AS THE TWIG BREAKS. .

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

IN HER GRATITUDE ASOR TELLS AURO OF THE TRAP PLANNED FOR HIM.

PLEASE GO BACK! MY PEOPLE WILL KILL YOU!

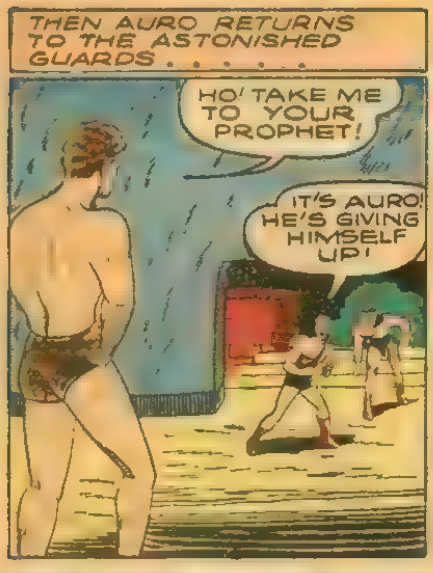
IN THIS CASE DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR. GOODBYE!

BUT THE MAN SENT BY THE PROPHET TO GUIDE ASOR RETURNS AND TELLS THAT SHE HAS FAILED. . . . .

AURO RETURNED INTO THE JUNGLE SIRE!

SO? SEND A BODY OF MEN AFTER HIM! HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE!

THE PROPHETS SOLDIERS COME UPON AURO AS HE SLEEPS. . . . .
AND RUN INTO A THUNDER-BOLT OF SIZZLING POWER!
H-M-M.. VISITORS!
BUT THE VALIANT AURO IS OVERPOWERED BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS.
WHEW! WHAT A FIGHT!
STOP THE IDLE CHATTER AND TIE HIM UP! .. WE MUST TAKE HIM TO THE TEMPLE PRISON!
SO THE MIGHTY AURO IS TAKEN PRISONER AND JAILED IN THE GLOOMY CELLS OF THE TEMPLE.. BUT NIGHT BRINGS A VISITOR. .
ASOR! WHY DO YOUR PEOPLE WANT TO KILL ME? I CANNOT HELP THEM WHEN I'M DEAD!
I KNOW! I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A KEY. WATCH FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
THAT SAME NIGHT AURO SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY.
OH-OH! GUARDS BLOCKING THE EXIT!
POW!
OOF!
HE RETURNS TO THE JUNGLE AND, ENDOWED WITH THE SECRET ENTRUSTED TO HIM AS LORD OF JUPITER, MIXES STRANGE HERBS AND DEADLY SNAKE VENOM TO FORM A LIQUID . . . . . .
WITH THIS SQUIRT-GUN FULL OF POISON I CAN KILL THE FLYING FIRE-BUGS!
3

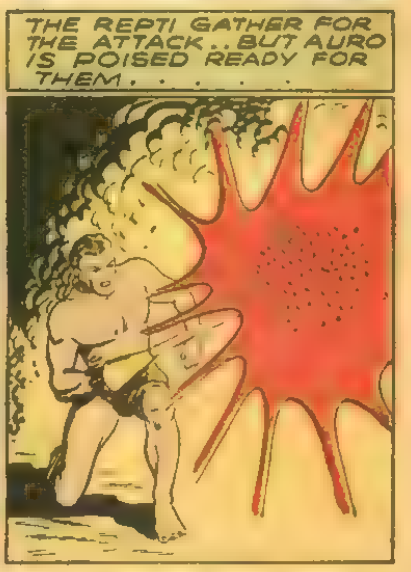

THEN AURO RETURNS TO THE ASTONISHED GUARDS . . . . . .
HO! TAKE ME TO YOUR PROPHET!
IT'S AURO! HE'S GIVING HIMSELF UP!

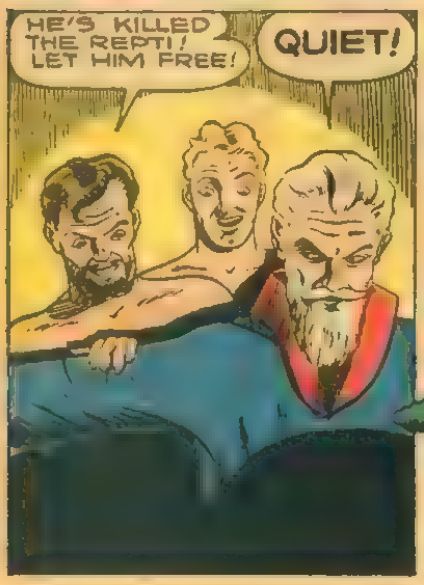
I HAVE A POISON-GUN WITH WHICH TO RID THE CITY OF THE REPTI!
GUARDS! THROW HIM INTO THE PIT WHERE THE ALLIGATOR GOD AND REPTI AWAIT HIM . . . WITHOUT HIS GUN!

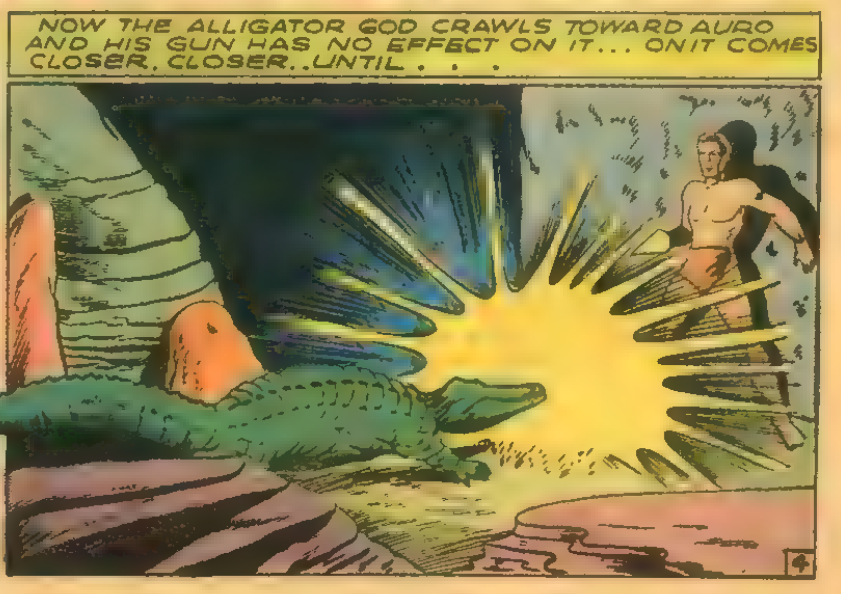
WE CANNOT DISOBEY THE WILL OF THE MIGHTY ALLIGATOR GOD!

DOWN BELOW, THE REPTI WAIT . . . THE ALLIGATOR GOD ROARS IN ANGER . . . .

BUT WHEN AURO LANDS, ASOR, STILL BELIEVING IN HIM, TOSSES THE FIRE-GUN DOWN . . . .
GOOD LUCK, EARTHMAN!
THANKS!


THE REPTI GATHER FOR THE ATTACK . . BUT AURO IS POISED READY FOR THEM . . . . . .


HE'S KILLED THE REPTI! LET HIM FREE!
QUIET!


NOW THE ALLIGATOR GOD CRAWLS TOWARD AURO AND HIS GUN HAS NO EFFECT ON IT . . . ON IT COMES CLOSER, CLOSER . . UNTIL . . .
4

AURO FLINGS DOWN HIS GUN AND PICKS UP A ROCK . . . .

YOU'RE A TOUGH-SKINNED BRUTE!

NIMBLY SIDE-STEPPING THE 'GATOR'S LUNGES, AURO STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN AT HIS MONSTROUS FOE. . . . .

BUT WE'LL SEE WHO'S TOUGHER!

BUT THE PROPHET SEES THAT THE EARTHMAN IS OUTWITTING HIM. . . . IN A FRENZY HE HURLS A ROCK AT AURO, STUNNING HIM. .

THIS'LL FINISH YOU!

AND THE MONSTER DRAWS CLOSE FOR THE KILL. . . . .

THE PEOPLE, ENRAGED AT FOUL PLAY TOWARD THE MAN WHO FREED THEM OF THE "FLYING FIRE," SURGE AT THE VILLAIN. . . .

KILL HIM! HE'S A TRAITOR!

DIE, YOU DOG!

THE ALLIGATOR, DISTRACTED BY HIS NEW VICTIM, TURNS FROM AURO. . . .

CLIMBING UP TO SAFETY AURO PULLS HIS EYES AWAY FROM THE GRISLY CARNAGE. . . .

THIS IS TO THANK YOU FOR FREEING US FROM THE FLYING DEATH!

?

THE LORD OF JUPITER MEETS AND OVERCOMES NEW DANGERS NEXT MONTH IN PLANET COMICS.

STAR PIRATE

By Ray Isip

FROM HIS SECRET BASE ON A TINY ASTEROID, THE STAR PIRATE ZOOMS OUT WITH HIS LUSTY CREW TO PREY ON THE INTERPLANETARY UNDERWORLD.

LECTRON, WEALTHY MERCHANT OF VENUS, IS TAKING HIS DAUGHTER TO BE WED ON MARS.

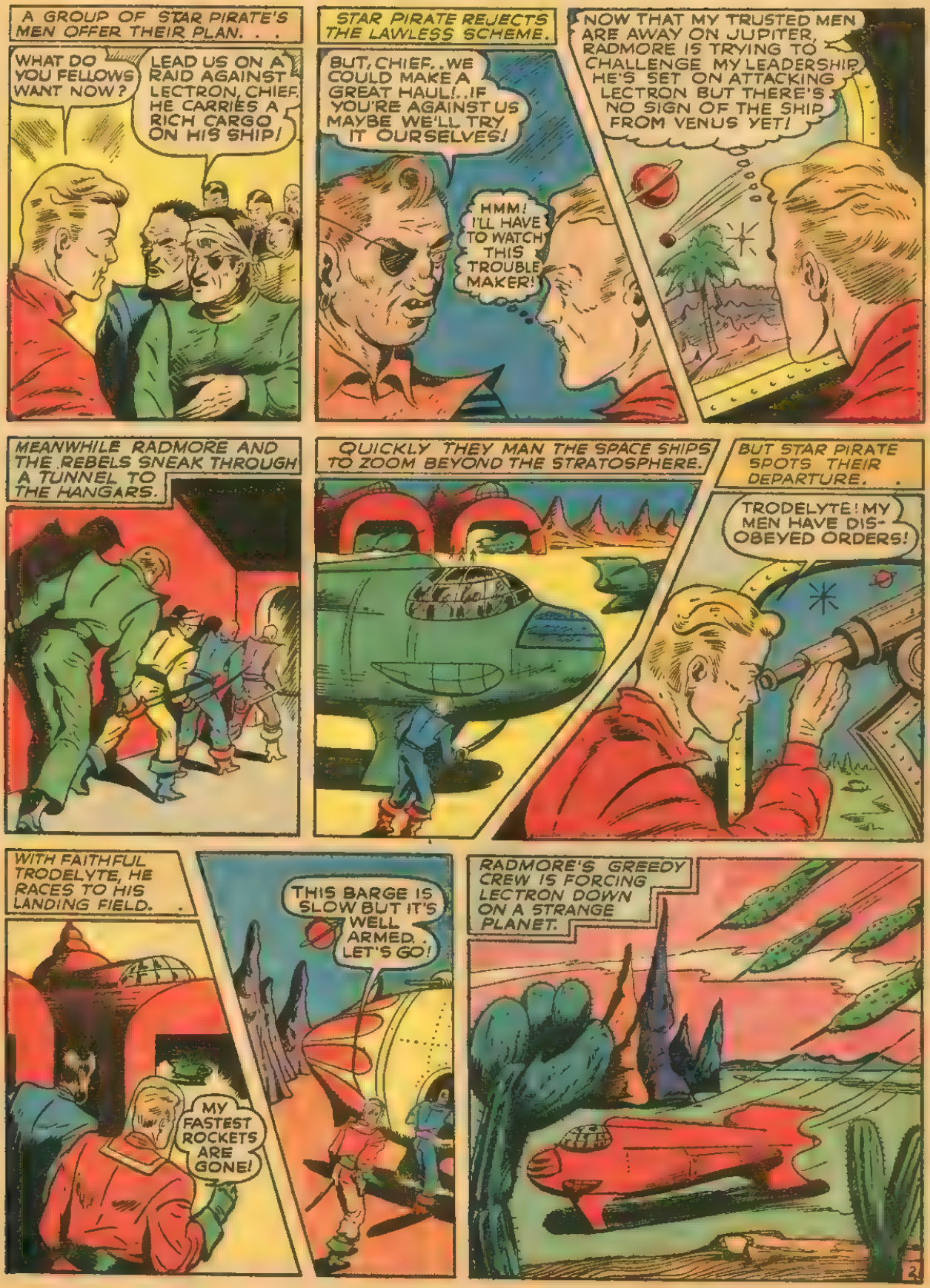
YOUR BRIDEGROOM AWAITS US. WE MUST HURRY, NEVRA.

GREAT TREASURE, AS NEVRA'S DOWRY, IS LOADED ABOARD LECTRON'S SPACE SHIP.

BUT NEWS OF LECTRON'S VOYAGE REACHES THE STAR PIRATE'S ASTEROID.

MY MEN ACT STRANGELY, TRODELYTE. WHAT'S TROUBLING THEM?

THE TREASURE LECTRON CARRIES TO MARS!


A GROUP OF STAR PIRATE'S MEN OFFER THEIR PLAN. . .
WHAT DO YOU FELLOWS WANT NOW?
LEAD US ON A RAID AGAINST LECTRON, CHIEF. HE CARRIES A RICH CARGO ON HIS SHIP!
STAR PIRATE REJECTS THE LAWLESS SCHEME.
BUT, CHIEF. . WE COULD MAKE A GREAT HAUL!. . IF YOU'RE AGAINST US MAYBE WE'LL TRY IT OURSELVES!
HMM! I'LL HAVE TO WATCH THIS TROUBLE MAKER!
NOW THAT MY TRUSTED MEN ARE AWAY ON JUPITER, RADMORE IS TRYING TO CHALLENGE MY LEADERSHIP. HE'S SET ON ATTACKING LECTRON BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE SHIP FROM VENUS YET!
MEANWHILE RADMORE AND THE REBELS SNEAK THROUGH A TUNNEL TO THE HANGARS.
QUICKLY THEY MAN THE SPACE SHIPS TO ZOOM BEYOND THE STRATOSPHERE.
BUT STAR PIRATE SPOTS THEIR DEPARTURE. .
TRODELYTE! MY MEN HAVE DISOBEYED ORDERS!
WITH FAITHFUL TRODELYTE, HE RACES TO HIS LANDING FIELD.
MY FASTEST ROCKETS ARE GONE!
THIS BARGE IS SLOW BUT IT'S WELL ARMED. . LET'S GO!
RADMORE'S GREEDY CREW IS FORCING LECTRON DOWN ON A STRANGE PLANET.

QUICKLY THE PIRATES SEIZE LECTRON'S TREASURE AND TAKE HIM AND NEYRA CAPTIVE.

BUT THE STAR PIRATE'S SPACE SHIP DIVES UPON THEM. . . .

BEFORE TRODELYTE AND HIS CHIEF CAN FIRE, RADMORE'S CREW RUSHES TO ATTACK. .

COME ON, TRODELYTE! LET'S SHOW THESE REBELS HOW WE CAN FIGHT!

STAR PIRATE SLASHES THROUGH THE EVIL BAND.

I'LL FIX HIM NOW!

AS RADMORE FIRES ON STAR PIRATE. .

STOP!

TRODELYTE ISN'T QUICK ENOUGH TO SAVE STAR PIRATE. .

THAT FINISHES HIM! ALL ABOARD, MEN!

RADMORE'S CREW STREAMS BACK TO THE SHIPS.

ROCKET TUBES ROARING, THEY SHOOT OFF THE STRANGE PLANET.

ABOARD THE REBEL FLAGSHIP.

STAR PIRATE CAN NEVER RETURN... NOW WE'LL HAVE TO OVERCOME HIS LOYAL MEN WHEN THEY RETURN FROM JUPITER!

MEANWHILE STAR PIRATE AND TRODELYTE REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH POWER TO GET BACK!
IN VAIN, STAR PIRATE TRIES TO CONTACT HIS LOYALISTS ON JUPITER.
NO LUCK! WE'D BETTER TAKE OFF!
UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THEY REACH STAR PIRATE'S BASE.
LEAVING TRODELYTE ON GUARD, STAR PIRATE SLIPS INTO A SECRET TUNNEL . . . . .
BE CAREFUL!
THIS WILL LEAD ME TO THE CELLS WHERE RADMORE IS KEEPING LECTRON AND NEVRA!
STAR PIRATE SETS OFF ALONE.
THIS PLAN IS RISKY BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
HE DRAWS HIS CUTLASS WHEN HE REACHES THE FORT.
A GUARD AT NEVRA'S CELL!
WITH A LIGHTNING CHARGE, STAR PIRATE ATTACKS THE UNWARY GUARD.
UH! WHAT TH'? HOW'D YOU GET BACK HERE?
STAR PIRATE'S FLASHING BLADE FORCES THE REBEL BACK.. BACK UNTIL..
ENOUGH.. ENOUGH.. I SURRENDER!
ENTERING THE GIRL'S CELL WITH A PASS KEY, HE LOCKS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.
I'M STAR PIRATE, MISS. MY MEN DISOBEYED ORDERS AND ATTACKED YOUR FATHER'S SHIP! FOLLOW ME NOW!
BUT YOUR MEN WILL KILL US!
4

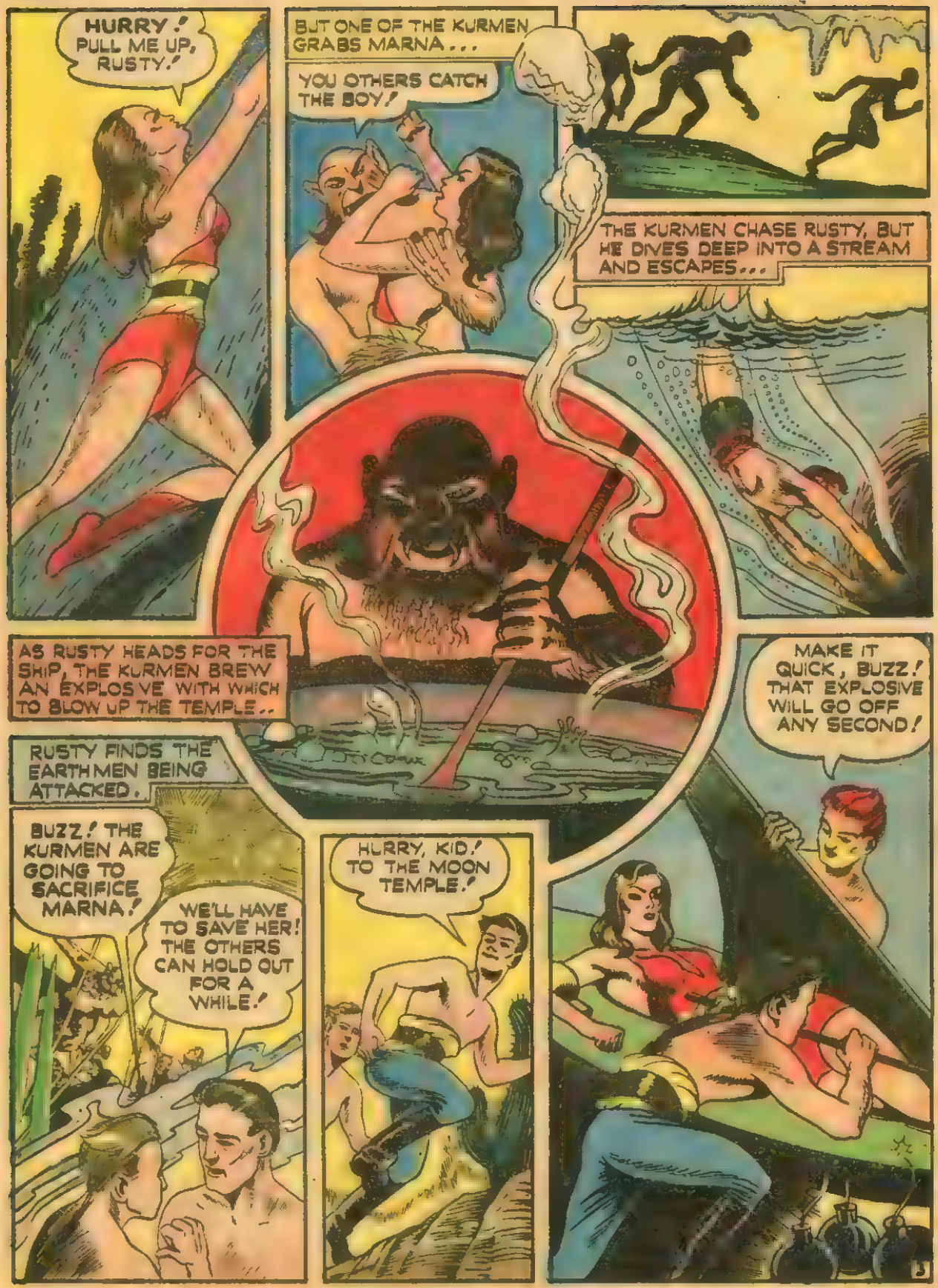
THEY ESCAPE ONTO THE RAMPARTS.
AGILY, STAR PIRATE SCALES THE WALL.
BE READY TO CATCH A ROPE, NEVRA!
HANG ON TIGHT! EASY NOW.. THAT'S IT!
BUT WHEN NEVRA HAS REACHED SAFETY, A GUARD WITH A RAY GUN SPRINGS UPON STAR PIRATE.
STAR PIRATE TAKES COOL AIM AND HIS CUTLASS LASHES THROUGH THE AIR.
MY HAND! YOU CUT OFF MY HAND!
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU!
THE ENRAGED GUARD STRUGGLES FIERCELY AGAINST STAR PIRATE, AS TRODELYTE RUSHES TOWARD THEM.
VASTLY OUTNUMBERED, THE TRIO IS SOON THROWN IN A CELL.
LOOKS LIKE WE ARE DOOMED!
STAR PIRATE, NEVRA AND TRODELYTE ARE CAST ADRIFT.. BUT AS THEY WATCH THE TELEVISOR..
BUT OTHER REBELS SWARM OVER THE WALL.
AND RADMORE DEVISES A FIENDISH PLAN.
THAT'S RIGHT! SMASH THIS SHIP!
LOOK! MY LOYAL MEN ARE RETURNING FROM JUPITER, TRODY. GET TO WORK ON THE RADIO!

TRODELYTE IS A GENIUS WITH SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS. .
I'LL HAVE THIS SET WORKING SOON, CHIEF!
MEANWHILE THE LOYAL PIRATES MEET A HEAVY BARRAGE
BUT HEAVY GUNFIRE FROM THE REBEL FORT KEEPS THEM FROM LANDING.
THE LOYAL FLAGSHIP CAPTAIN RADIOS FRANTICALLY.
STAR PIRATE DOESN'T REPLY. HE'S TURNED THE FORT GUNS AGAINST US!
A MOMENT LATER, TRODELYTE HAS THE RADIO WORKING AND STAR PIRATE CALLS. . .
REBELS ARE HOLDING THE FORT. TOW US DOWN AND WE'LL ATTACK THEM!!
UNDER STAR PIRATE'S COMMAND, THE FORT IS ASSAULTED FROM AIR AND LAND.
LET'S GO, MEN!
WITH TRODELYTE AT HIS SIDE STAR PIRATE ENTERS THROUGH THE SECRET TUNNEL TO SURPRISE THE REBELS INSIDE THE FORT. . . . . .
THE PENALTY FOR MUTINY IS DEATH!
RIGHT, TRODY! LET 'EM HAVE IT!
FALLING BACK FROM STAR PIRATE'S FURIOUS ASSAULT, THE REBELS FINALLY SURRENDER . . .
AND THE WEDDING PARTY IS FREE TO CONTINUE ON ITS JOURNEY.
SO LONG, NEVRA! AND THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU BOTH!
THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, STAR PIRATE!
ANOTHER THRILLING STORY OF STAR PIRATE WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS.

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

Buzz Crandall
OF THE SPACE PATROL
BY
WILLIAM HYER
SECRETLY, BUZZ CRANDALL HAS COMPLETED A SPACE SHIP.
IN IT, THE WHITE MEN COULD LEAVE UED, SHOULD THE KURMEN THREATEN.
MARNA AND RUSTY HEAD FOR THE CRAFT...
SUDDENLY, HE PLUNGES THROUGH A HOLE INTO THE CAVES BENEATH....

ANXIOUSLY, MARNA RUNS AFTER HIM...
RUSTY! RUSTY!
SNARLING VICIOUSLY, LURKING KURMEN RUSH HER...
HELP! TURN ME LOOSE!
SHE SHALL BE SACRIFICED ON THE MOON DIAL!
I'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!
RUSTY CLIMBS TO A SPOT HIGH IN THE CAVE..
HE PUSHES DOWN LARGE BOULDERS.
THAT OUGHT TO DRAW THEM AWAY!
THE SAVAGE KURMEN SEE THE STONES AND RUSH FROM THE CAVE..
QUICK, MARNA! GRAB MY HAND!
2


HURRY! PULL ME UP, RUSTY!
BUT ONE OF THE KURMEN GRABS MARNA...
YOU OTHERS CATCH THE BOY!
THE KURMEN CHASE RUSTY, BUT HE DIVES DEEP INTO A STREAM AND ESCAPES...
AS RUSTY HEADS FOR THE SHIP, THE KURMEN BREW AN EXPLOSIVE WITH WHICH TO BLOW UP THE TEMPLE..
MAKE IT QUICK, BUZZ! THAT EXPLOSIVE WILL GO OFF ANY SECOND!
RUSTY FINDS THE EARTHMEN BEING ATTACKED.
BUZZ! THE KURMEN ARE GOING TO SACRIFICE MARNA!
WE'LL HAVE TO SAVE HER! THE OTHERS CAN HOLD OUT FOR A WHILE!
HURRY, KID! TO THE MOON TEMPLE!

CARRYING THE UNCONSCIOUS MARNA, BUZZ AND RUSTY RUSH OUT.
WITH A DEAFENING EXPLOSION, THE TEMPLE CRUMBLES TO THE GROUND....
THEY'RE LOOTING THE RUINS! COME ON, RUSTY... WE CAN HANDLE THEM!
BUZZ SWINGS, AND ONE OF THE KURMEN GOES DOWN..
THAT'LL HOLD YOU!
ANOTHER FALLS AND THE REST FLEE IN PANIC..
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE SHIP!
MEANWHILE THE BATTLE IS GOING BADLY FOR THE EARTH PEOPLE.

LUCKY THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TUNNEL!
GET THE MOTORS STARTED, MARNA!
THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN RUSH TO THE SHIP.
THEY'RE CLOSING IN!
WE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
AS THE KURMEN CHARGE, THE MEN CLIMB ABOARD..
MY RAY GUN IS EMPTY!
WITH A MIGHTY ROAR, THE SHIP TAKES OFF.
LATER THEY ARE FORCED TO LAND TO ADJUST THE SHIP'S GYRONAMETER..

BUZZ EMERGES FROM THE SHIP IN A SWAMPY REGION...

FOLLOWING BUZZ, MARNA SEES SAVAGE MARSHMEN RISE FROM THE BOG BEHIND HIM...

LOOK OUT, BUZZ!

BUZZ SMASHES ONE WITH HIS EMPTY RAY GUN...HE KICKS A SECOND BACK INTO THE SWAMP.

HOWLING FIERCELY, THE MARSHMEN ATTACK..

BUZZ RACES TO MARNA'S AID AS SHE IS SEIZED BY ANOTHER MARSHMAN...

BUZZ SWINGS AND THE CREATURE SINKS INTO THE BOG.

THEY HEAD BACK TO THE SHIP..

MOTOR'S OKAY NOW, MARNA!

THEN WE'RE SAFE AT LAST, BUZZ!

BUZZ CRANDALL ZOOMS TO MORE ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

6

REEF RYAN
BY HUGH FITZHUGH
IN THE STRANGE WORLD UNDER NEPTUNE'S SURFACE, REEF RYAN SETS OUT WITH VARA TO RESTORE HER FATHER, NEPON, TO CORAAM'S THRONE... EVIL SARKU LIES BOUND IN THE BOTTOM OF THEIR BOAT.
THEY REACH THE FLOATING CORAL CITY...
AS THEY LAND..
SARKU'S MEN!

WHILE A BATTLE RAGES, SARKU IS RELEASED.....
HURRY, DOG!
NEPON'S LOYAL SUBJECTS CHARGE DOWN INTO THE FRAY....
VARA IS SEIZED ROUGHLY.
..AND TURN THE BATTLE AGAINST SARKU!
I MUST ESCAPE!
THE STRUGGLE IS SEEN FROM A NEAR-BY ROOF..
LOOK! IT IS NEPON, OUR RIGHTFUL RULER!
SARKU TOLD US HE WAS DEAD.. COME ON!
MY MEN WILL COVER MY RETREAT!
NEPON'S SUBJECTS ARE VICTORIOUS!
YOU STAY HERE, NEPON, WHILE VARA AND I GO AFTER SARKU!
TAKE A SQUAD OF MEN, REEF!
2

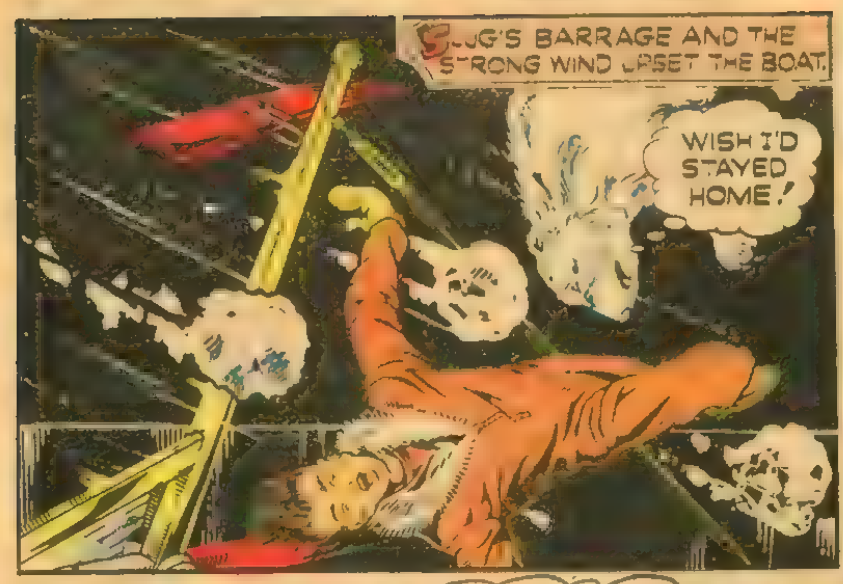
BARKU IS OUT OF SIGHT, BUT HE HEADED THIS WAY!
THE SEA IS GETTING CHOPPY!
SUDDENLY A HUGE WAVE WASHES VARA OVERBOARD!
TAKE THE HELM! I'M GOING IN AFTER HER!
THERE'S A SABERFISH STREAKING FOR VARA!
REEF DIVES FOR THE KILLER!
GOING DOWN?
AS THE FISH'S BLADE JAMS IN THE SEA FLOOR REEF BREAKS ITS BACK..
VARA IS DRIFTING AWAY..NO WONDER WHAT AN UNDERTOW!
VARA! GRAB ON! WE'RE BEING DRAWN TO THAT WALL OF WATER-SPOUTS!
TWISTING WATERS HURL THEM UPWARD.
3

THEY DROP DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE...
AND ARE CAST UP ON A BEACH, BUT THEIR BOAT AND CREW ARE DESTROYED BY THE WATER SPOUTS...
OUT OF THE WILD, LUSH JUNGLE SWARM FIERCE, FEATHERED MUNKATOOS.
EVERYTHING HAPPENS TO ME!
REEF!
REEF IS FELLED FROM BEHIND..
THEY'RE SWINGING OFF THROUGH THE TREES WITH VARA ...I HOPE I CAN CATCH UP!
THERE THEY ARE! WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO VARA?
WHERE'S REEF? THESE DANCING BEASTS ARE GOING TO KILL ME!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
4

IF THEY'VE NEVER SEEN FIRE, THIS MAY WORK!
REEF HURLS BLAZING BRANCHES AT THE DANCING MUNKATOOS.
ACCOMPANIED BY THE MUNKATOOS, THEY HEAD BACK THROUGH THE JUNGLE.
IT WORKED! THEY THINK I'M SOME FIRE GOD!
REEF! HOW DID YOU DO IT?
THIS GREEN CLOTH LOOKS LIKE PART OF SARKU'S TUNIC!
THEY FIND A WEIRD TEMPLE.
REEF AND VARA ENTER THE TEMPLE.
I WONDER WHAT THAT MURKY POOL CAN BE... AND LOOK AT THOSE SWORDS!
...AND THOSE OLD SKULLS!
SAY, WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET OUTSIDE?
GREAT SCOTT! MY FEATHERED FRIENDS ARE BEING TORN TO PIECES!

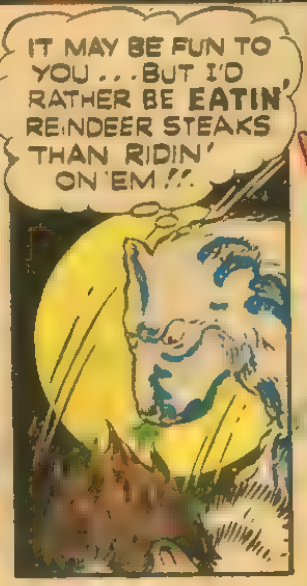
REEF RUNS INTO THE TEMPLE...
THESE OLD SWORDS WILL COME IN HANDY!
HE TEARS INTO THE SAVAGE BEASTS..
COME ON, YOU STREAMLINED TABBIES!
THE MUNKATOOS ARE QUICK TO IMITATE REEF'S METHODS.
TRADING VICIOUS BLOWS THEY CARRY THE FIGHT TO THE TEMPLE...
NOW, RYAN, I WILL KILL YOU!
I WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, BUSTER!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE CATS! ...OH!...OH! SARKU! DUCK VARA!
VARA! DID YOU SEE THAT?... SOME WEIRD LITTLE PEOPLE DRAGGED SARKU DOWN!
THAT'S THE END OF SARKU, REEF!
I HOPE SO, BUT SOMEHOW I DOUBT IT!
REEF RYAN DISCOVERS NEW PERIL IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!
6

Jerry
BENSON
ZZZ
HAPPY BOITHDAY T FROSTING
YUM YUM.
NORGE AND HIS PET POLAR BEAR ARE ICE-BOATING...
FUN...EH, FROSTING? AND ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, TOO!
SLUG, LEADER OF THE HOODLUM PENGUINS, SUDDENLY OPENS FIRE WITH HIS SECRET WEAPON.
BOOM


SLUG'S BARRAGE AND THE STRONG WIND UPSET THE BOAT.
WISH I'D STAYED HOME!

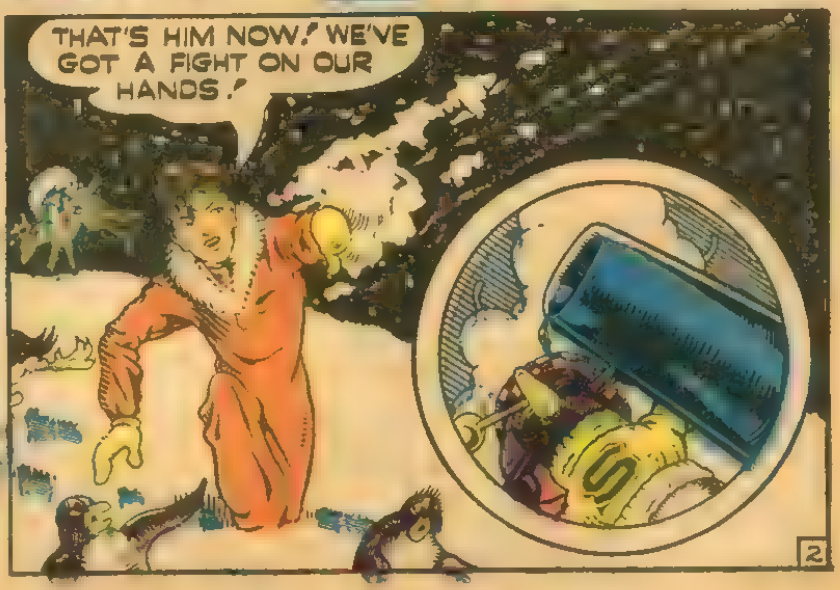
THE GALE WHIRLS THEM HIGH OVER THE ICE....
WAIT FOR ME FROSTING!

THEY LAND ON A REINDEER.
YIPEEE!! THIS IS AS MUCH FUN AS A RODEO!


IT MAY BE FUN TO YOU...BUT I'D RATHER BE EATIN' REINDEER STEAKS THAN RIDIN' ON 'EM!!

THEIR MOUNT GALLOPS TO THE CAMP OF THE FRIENDLY PENGUINS...
?

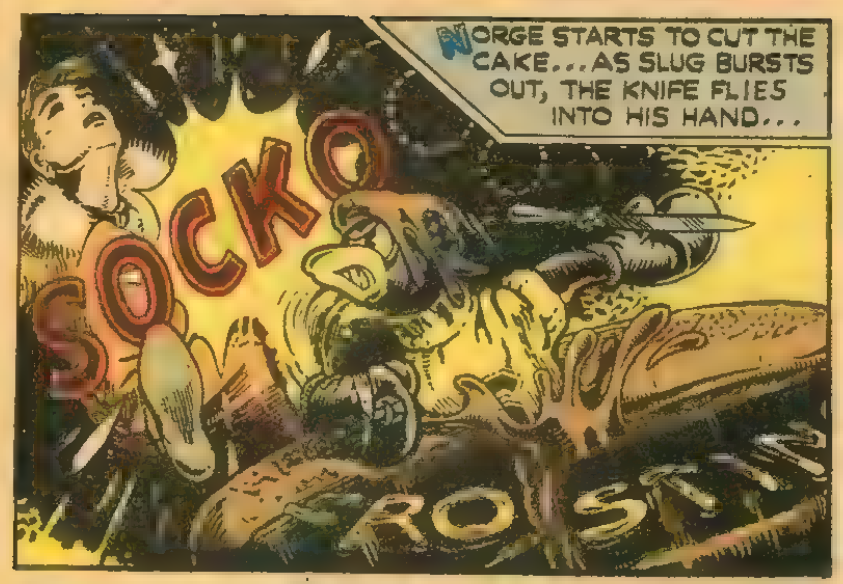
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE, BOYS! SLUG'S GOT A NEW SNOW BALL CANNON!

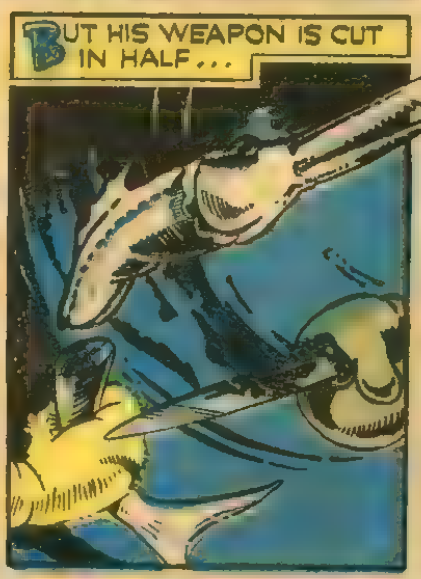

THAT'S HIM NOW! WE'VE GOT A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!
2

SLUG AND HIS GANG FIRE AWAY AS NORGE AND THE PEACEFUL PENGUINS DEFEND THEMSELVES....
THAT'S ONE LESS TO WORRY ABOUT!
I'LL KNOCK DE BEAR FACTS OUT OF DAT GUY!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT BY THAT?
LIGHT UP, BOYS! GIVE 'EM A GAS ATTACK!
SPLOP
H..MM! TINGS AIN'T GOIN' SO GOOD!
COUGH COUGH
NORGE'S CREW IS OVER-COME BY THE FUMES...
DEY AIN'T SO TOUGH!
WONDER HOW BEAR STEAK TASTES WITH BENSON STEW!
3

THE REINDEER SNIFFS AT THE SENSELESS PENGUINS...THEN KICKS SNOW ON THEM...
WHAT TH...? SLUG MUST HAVE CAPTURED NORGE AND FROSTING.
GIDDAP BOY! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM!
IN SLUG'S CAMP...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONERS, FROSTING!
PIPE DOWN, YOU GUYS!
Choice RECIPES
MEANWHILE.
YOU FELLOWS WAIT THERE.' MAYBE I CAN SNEAK UP ON 'EM!
QUIET" DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE ??
QUIET!
SHHH.. DON'T MAKE A SOUND!
FREED, THEY REACH THE SLEIGH...
HURRY UP, NORGE!
GOOD WORK, BOYS! LET'S HEAD FOR HOME!
AFTER 'EM PUNKS! PULL A RUN-OUT ON ME, WILL DEY?
4

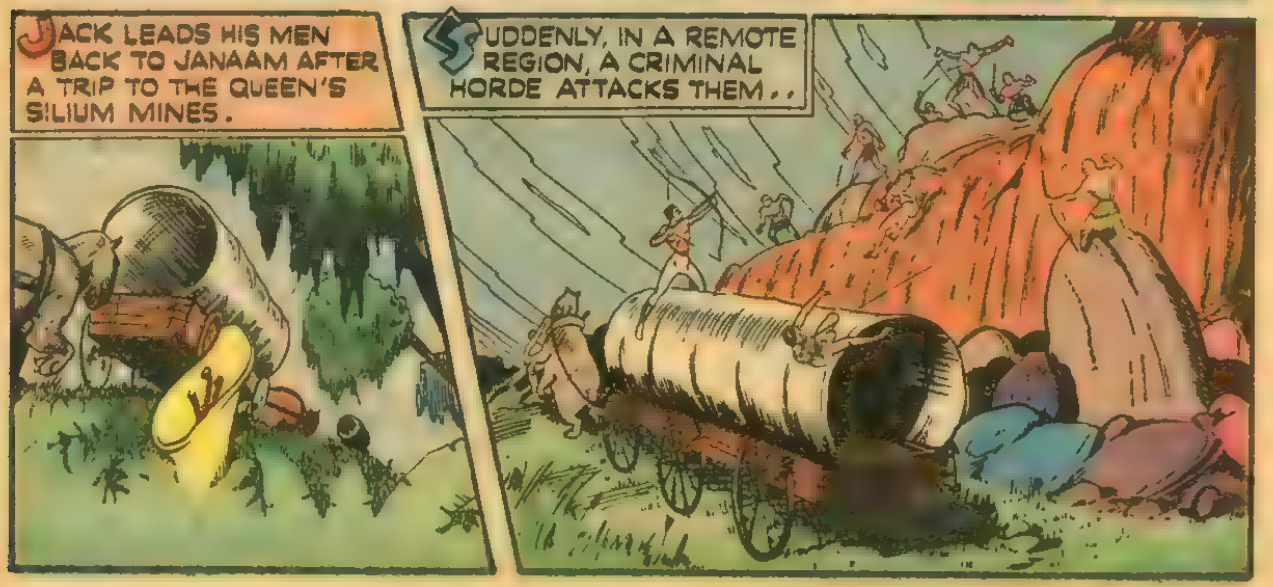
AS SLUG'S GANG PURSUES, THE R CANNON TURNS OVER AND THEY LAND IN A SNOW BANK...
NORGE AND THE PEACEFUL PENGUINS REACH THEIR CAMP.
HOME, AT LAST!
WHEEE
PARTY'S ALL READY, BOYS!
HOW ABOUT A GAME OF PIN THE TAIL ON THE CARIBOU?
YOU BET!
SURE!
THE GAME BEGINS WHEN...
SUDDENLY...
KERPLUNK!
SUFFERIN' SEALSKINS! THERE'S A NOTE ATTACHED!
Happy birthday DOPE!! all is forgiven! Am sending cake for de party.. Slug
SLUG'S GANG ARRIVES WITH THE CAKE...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FROSTING
MAYBE SLUG'S NOT SUCH A BAD PENGUIN AFTER ALL.
BET THEY'LL WANT THE PLATE BACK!
5





PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

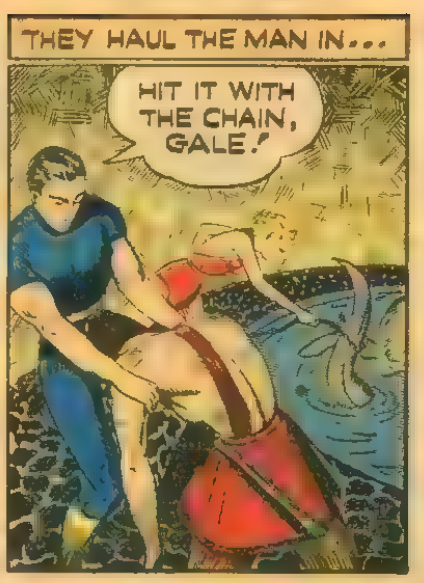
GALE ALLEN
and the GIRL SQUADRON
BY DOUGLAS McKEE

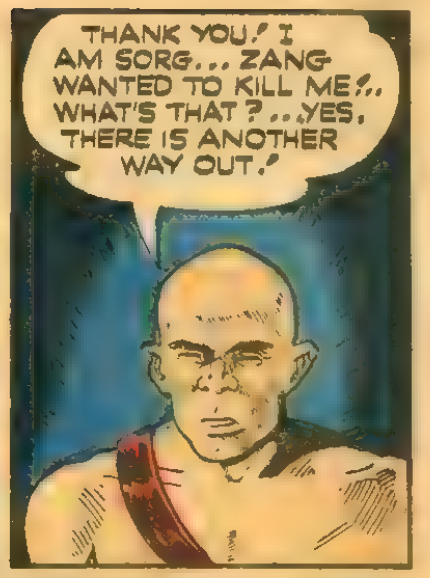

JACK LEADS HIS MEN BACK TO JANAAM AFTER A TRIP TO THE QUEEN'S SILIUM MINES.
SUDDENLY, IN A REMOTE REGION, A CRIMINAL HORDE ATTACKS THEM..

JACK AND HIS MEN FIGHT FURIOUSLY..
THE OUTLAWS ARE TOO MANY.. THEY CAPTURE THE LITTLE BAND...
...AND TAKE THEM TO AN ANCIENT CASTLE..
JACK IS BROUGHT BEFORE AN EXILE FROM JANAAM...
WHERE ARE THE QUEEN'S MINES?
I WON'T TELL YOU, ZANG!
GUARDS! INTO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM!
AT THE QUEEN'S CASTLE..
GALE! YOU MUST GO AND SEARCH FOR JACK!
I'D BETTER WARN ZANG!
MASTER! GALE ALLEN IS SEARCHING FOR JACK!
GOOD! MY MEN WILL WELCOME HER!
LATER, AS GALE APPROACHES ZANG'S CASTLE...
CAPTURE HER, MEN!

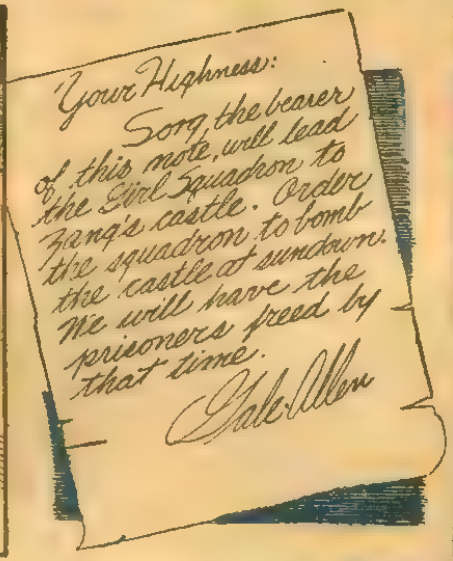
GALE FIGHTS BRAVELY, BUT ONE OF THE CRIMINALS SEIZES HER FROM BEHIND.
TO THE CASTLE WITH HER!
NOW YOU'VE FOUND HIM!
GALE!
GALE'S FOOT STRIKES A LOOSE STONE.
A TRAP-DOOR!
THERE'S A TUNNEL DOWN THERE!
JACK AND GALE FOLLOW THE BAT-INFESTED TUNNEL..
CAREFUL, GALE!
LOOKS LIKE THE TUNNEL ENDS AT THIS POOL, JACK!
SUDDENLY, HIGH IN THE CASTLE A TRAP DOOR OPENS AND A MAN HURTLES DOWN INTO THE MURKY WATER!
A SHADOWY FORM GLIDES TOWARD THE MAN..
IT'S A VANOCT!
QUICK! THROW HIM THAT CHAIN!
3

HANG ON TO THIS LINE!

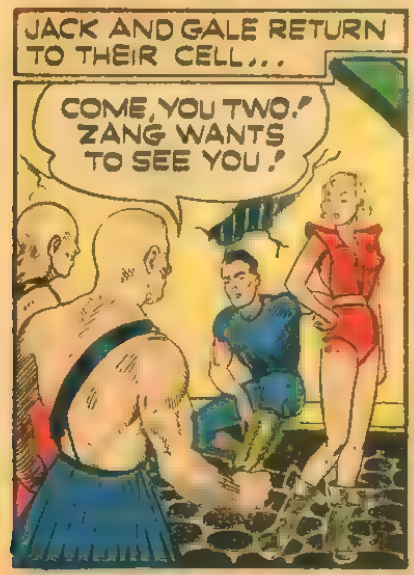

THEY HAUL THE MAN IN...
HIT IT WITH THE CHAIN, GALE!


THANK YOU! I AM SORG... ZANG WANTED TO KILL ME!.. WHAT'S THAT?..YES, THERE IS ANOTHER WAY OUT!

WILL YOU TAKE A NOTE TO THE QUEEN?
YOU SAVED MY LIFE... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!


Your Highness:
Sorg the bearer of this note, will lead the Eird Squadron to Zang's castle. Order the squadron to bomb the castle at sundown. We will have the prisoners freed by that time.
Gale Allen

COME ON, JACK! WE'VE GOT TO FREE THOSE MEN SOMEHOW!


JACK AND GALE RETURN TO THEIR CELL...
COME, YOU TWO! ZANG WANTS TO SEE YOU!

YOU STILL REFUSE TO TALK, EH?

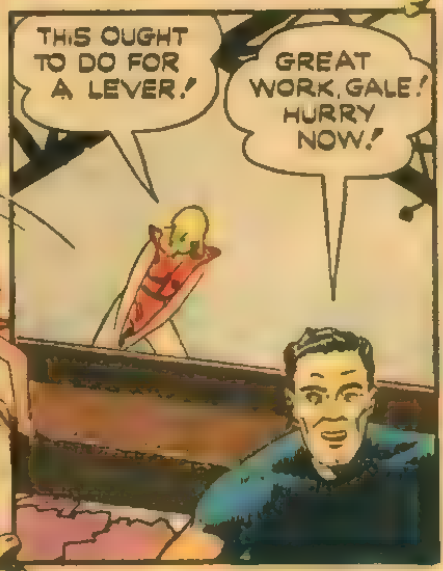
TORTURER! HOT COALS ON THE GIRL'S HANDS!

SUDDENLY, JACK LASHES OUT AT THE GUARDS.
GRAB HIS SWORD, GALE!
NOW, ZANG! YOU WILL RELEASE THE PRISONERS OR DIE!
HIGH ABOVE THE CASTLE.
OUR EXPLOSIVES WILL BLAST THAT CASTLE OFF THE MAP!
HURRY, JACK! THE GIRL SQUADRON SHOULD BE HERE NOW!
ASSUMING THAT THE PRISONERS ARE SAFE, THE GIRL SQUADRON RELEASES THE FIRST BOMB...
IT STRIKES THE CASTLE WITH A DEAFENING CRASH.
DEBRIS RAINS ABOUT THEM AS THE PRISONERS RUSH OUT...
A FALLING BEAM STRIKES JACK, PINNING HIM DOWN.

I'LL HELP YOU, JACK!

NO, YOU WON'T! HE SHALL DIE THERE!

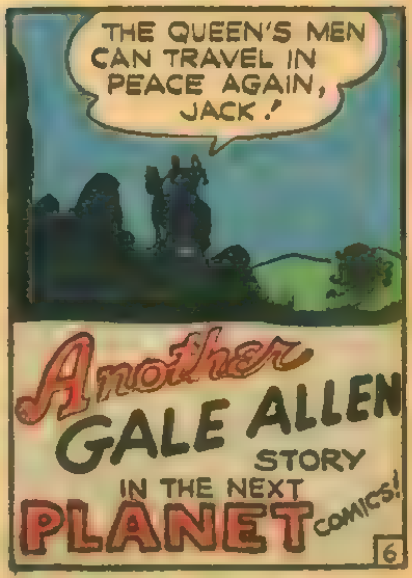
GALE SEIZES UP A CLUB...
COME HERE, YOU!


THIS OUGHT TO DO FOR A LEVER!
GREAT WORK, GALE! HURRY NOW!

YOU'RE FREE, JACK! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

JACK AND GALE RUSH OUT THROUGH A GAPING HOLE IN THE WALL...

AS THEY JOIN THE GIRL SQUADRON, THERE IS A RESOUNDING ROAR...
THAT'S THE END OF THE CASTLE!
AND ZANG, TOO, GALE!


THE QUEEN'S MEN CAN TRAVEL IN PEACE AGAIN, JACK!
Another GALE ALLEN STORY IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!
6

WAR QUEEN OF PARUN

By Bjorn Tagens

Jeff Drake led his two flight-mates into the cavern-like council room of the Interplanetary Patrol headquarters. The Chief, sprawled behind his massive desk cluttered with communications devices, nodded his gray head.

"Ready to take off, Captain?" he asked.

"All set, sir."

"Good. There are no new instructions for you. Simply make your best speed to Parun, hover over that wild little planet at a safe height, and report your findings to the *Meteoric*. That's clear?"

Drake nodded, glancing at Commander Allers. The head of the punitive expedition against the pirates of Parun smiled. "We'll be waiting for your report," he said quietly.

"We're not to land?" asked Drake.

The Chief hesitated. "Not unless you see a good reason for it. But if you can't give Commander Allers anything definite after scouting the planet, you might send either Navigator Woodruff or Engineer Bragen in to Parundar. A man with his ears pricked might pick up a lot in the streets of Queen Morla's capital city."

Drake nodded thoughtfully. Woodruff smiled and Bragen grinned hopefully. The three saluted smartly and withdrew. Outside headquarters they walked swiftly to their rocket ship, craning their necks as they went toward the towering armed transport ship *Meteoric*. Hundreds of Earth's fighters moved purposefully, some clad in full armor with space helmets, some stripped to the waist for the task of stowing supplies about the great hull.

"They're loading for bear," remarked Bragen gleefully. "This is gonna be a real scrap."

"Might be a long campaign," Woodruff said soberly. "That Queen Morla has a lot of tricks, and a pretty strong army."

Drake gave the two a meaning look. "And it's up to us," he said, "to find out what tricks she has ready for the Earth Expeditionary Force. We'll have plenty of fun, all right."

They reached their scout, a squat, light-armed craft that devoted most of its bulk to powerful rockets and oversized fuel bunkers. Drake and Woodruff checked their instruments while Bragen warmed up the rocket bank. Then Bragen whistled.

"Ready to take off, Blast?" Drake called. At Bragen's affirmative he eased the throttle open, and the rocket whooshed from her cradle. Holding her steady, he took a last look at his home planet. Directly back of him was the sprawling patrol establishment, with here and there a patrol cruiser at rest, and overshadowing them all in size, the giant *Meteoric*, making ready for war.

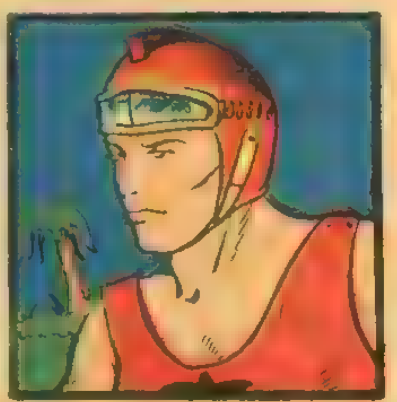
"Here we go, boys!" he called as a thrill of excitement stepped up his pulse. "Next stop, Parun!"

Mart Woodruff was the first to sight the trouble-making member of that part of the solar circle in Earth's sphere of influence. Heavy clouds seemed to hang low over Parun, and Drake frowned.

"We'll have to swing low," he warned Woodruff. "Keep your eyes peeled—they'll spot us, and they may have some fighters out."

"How many have they?" asked the navigator.

"Nobody knows. They had two cruisers a year ago, but they captured four on Argo, and they've had time to build some dreadnaughts. This smart Queen keeps her cards covered."



An explosion echoed his last word. And as the ringing in their ears subsided, the two in the forward compartment heard Blast Bragen cursing. Drake, whipping the scout off her course, asked anxiously, "Damage?"

"The skunks cut off half my starboard rocket bank!" yelled the engineer. "Our speed's cut darn near half, Cap."

"Okay," acknowledged Drake grimly. "Mart, man the gun." He swung the rocket in a vicious gun, and Woodruff whooped.

"There's one!" he cried. "Hold her steady!" An instant later his gun blasted, with a silent concussion that sucked the air out of the control room for a half-second, then sent it whirling back, hot and spent. "Got her!" cried the navigator-gunner.

A black-and-scarlet rocket ship was lurching off the port bow, and diving fast toward the protection of unseen ground batteries on Parun's surface. No other craft was in sight. Drake eased the rocket's speed and called to Bragen.

"Yeah," grunted the engineer. "I can repair the tubes some, but not up here. Can yuh land?"

"Might as well," Drake snapped. "You and Mart can fix her up while I go look around Parundar."

"Ow!" objected Bragen. "We do the work while you go see the sights!" But he said no more, and a dull clanking was all that sounded from the bowels of the ship. Mart Woodruff, however, objected to the ship's captain leaving on a perilous mission, and argued the point while Drake cruised, looking for landmarks. He glimpsed the principal city of Parun in the hazy distance, and set the rocket down in a secluded valley. Then he set his helmet phone carefully, gave last instructions to his mates, and set off afoot for the stronghold of Queen Morla.

A few natives glanced at him curiously, but evidently the sight of strange soldiers of fortune on Parun was no novelty, for he was not hindered. He strode watchfully into the town, noting the activity of the sol-

diers of Parun, tall men, heavy-shouldered and spindly-legged, with pointed helmets and awkward ray-pistols not unlike ancient cross-bows.

He was turning into the public square when he came face to face with Redman. Recognition was instantaneous, and Drake knew that it was useless to dissemble or flee.

He spoke first, his hand on his ray-gun. "Well, well! I might have known that the notorious traitor would turn up in such a pot of pirates as this."

Redman's eyes blazed with hate. "It's where you sent me, you snooping spy!" he grated. "And now that you're here, won't you stay a while?" Grinning evilly, he, nevertheless, watched Drake's hand warily, and cast quick glances about, hoping that others would note the Earth soldier's presence.

"Take it easy," Drake advised softly. "I shoot fast."

"Do you think," smirked Redman, "you can get—"

A stunning blow landed on Drake's elbow, numbing his arm. An instant later he was seized by two Parunians, while Redman cackled. "Neat!" cried the renegade Earth-man. "Bring him along! To the queen!"

Drake was dragged through the streets, while curious crowds gathered. His guards shouted loudly. "An Earth spy!" and the crowds howled malevolently. Stones flew through the air. Then the four passed guards at a great portal, and entered the palace.

Queen Morla turned from her low-voiced parley with two councilors, one of whom was the wizened, black-eyed Ghitor. Her full lips curled in a mocking smile. "A spy!" she murmured. "You have done well, Redman. Take him to a cell—and perhaps we will let him see our fleet annihilate his friends, when they come. They *are* coming, Earth-man?"

"They are coming, O Mad Queen," replied Drake quietly, "and it is they who will do the annihilating."

The beauty's face twisted in a convulsion of rage. "So!" she screamed. "You shall see them die—and then, you too! Ha, ha!" She rocked forward with wild laughter, until Ghitor laid a hand on her arm. Sullenly she calmed, and gestured, glaring blackly at Drake.

Redman jerked a thumb, and the guards pulled Drake toward the rear of the audience chamber. The four passed through a dim corridor, down steps, and into a cell block. Redman selected a bare cell, chuckling, and watched as the warden, roused from a cubby-hole, fastened leg-irons to the prisoner and slid a bar of metal across the grilled cell door. Then Drake was alone.

The leg-irons were strong, unbreakable. But Drake still had his helmet. Adjusting it, he spoke softly. "Woodruff! I've been captured. I can tell you this—and you must pass it on to the *Meteoric*. Morla and her crew are prepared for a strong attack—and they have some trick ready. Warn the *Meteoric!*"

"What about you?" came the navigator's voice.

"Forget me," rapped Drake. "Get into the air and save that expedition!"

For hours Drake sat alone. His guard, bearing a scant meal before dawn, found him apparently dejected. But the metal platter clattered to the floor, and the guard, his throat caught in the vise of Drake's strong hands, sank to the floor, senses reeling, while Drake snatched the key to the leg-irons and freed himself. In seconds he was out of the cell, and cautiously making his way up a dark stairway. The darkness aided him, and he reached an outer portal before he saw a living being. But at the gate were two guards.

He crept up behind one, and felled him with a blow. The other guard turned, and Drake, snatching the fallen man's spear, swung hard. The second guard dropped like a log. Then Drake was in the open.

In the gloom he slipped quickly toward the outskirts of the city, his eyes probing. He saw a rank of fighting space-ships with lights gleaming dully, and gave them a wide berth. Then he was in the country-side, forging toward his own rocket scout.

But dawn caught him far from his objective. Dawn, and a furious queen. Her soldiers beat him down, and Morla stood laughing cruelly, glancing occasionally down the valley slope. Drake looked, and as the Parunian plan became clear his heart sank.

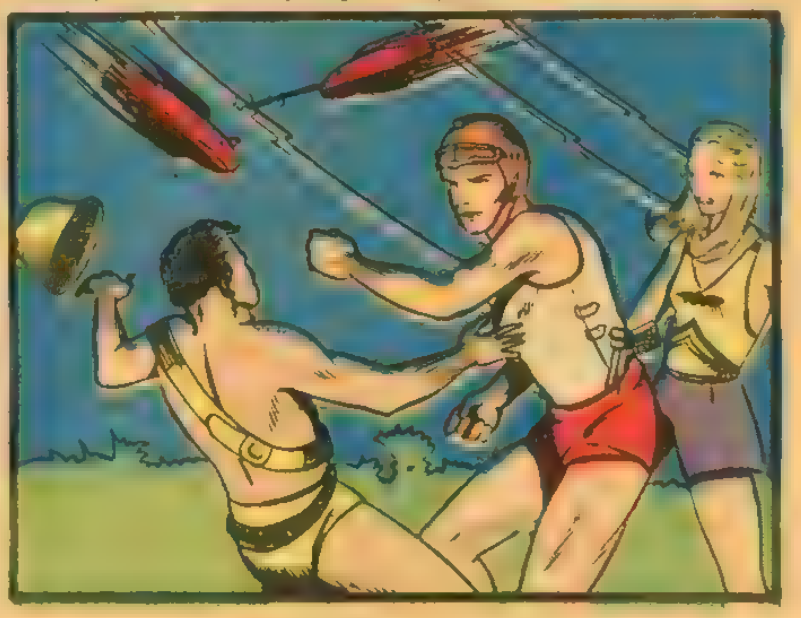
A captured ship lay there, grounded. And in the air a Parunian cruiser hovered. The scheme provided that the cruiser would stage a mock attack on the empty ship. The *Meteoric*, lured down to defend the supposedly helpless space-ship from pirates, would be caught in a cross-fire of atomic-ray guns on the rim of the valley.

And now a great shout went up from the Parunians hidden in the thickly wooded mountain-top. The *Meteoric*, blazoned with the insignia of the Earth fleet, appeared in the sky, hovered, and then headed for the scene of ambush.

Drake struck like a man possessed. Down went a guard, and another. Then he ran, zigzagging toward the ship empty save for a gun crew. He was inside the hulk before the crew realized his intent. His pistol spoke, and the gunners fell. Then he sprang to the gun and tossed a blast from the atomic-ray tube past the *Meteoric's* bow. The great transport halted its dash, and Drake yelled in triumph. He had saved the day!

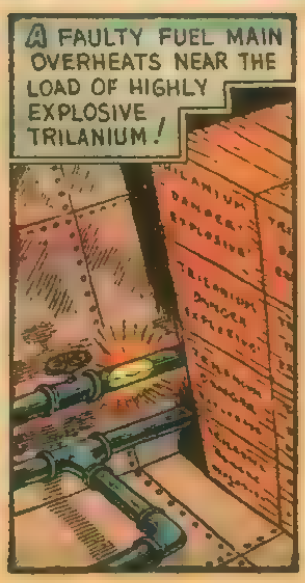
In a frenzy of rage, Queen Morla hurtled down the slope in her rocket chariot, intent upon the death of the man who had ruined her plan. But the *Meteoric* was watching, and another, smaller ship. The two craft blasted the Parunian cruiser and Parunian batteries until all resistance had ceased, and Morla was a white dot fleeing into the forest.

Then the smaller ship landed, and Mart Woodruff and Blast Bragen were leaping out of it, to slap Drake exultantly. "And did ye see the Queen, Cap?" asked Blast. "She was goin' so fast I hadn't a good look at her, myself!"

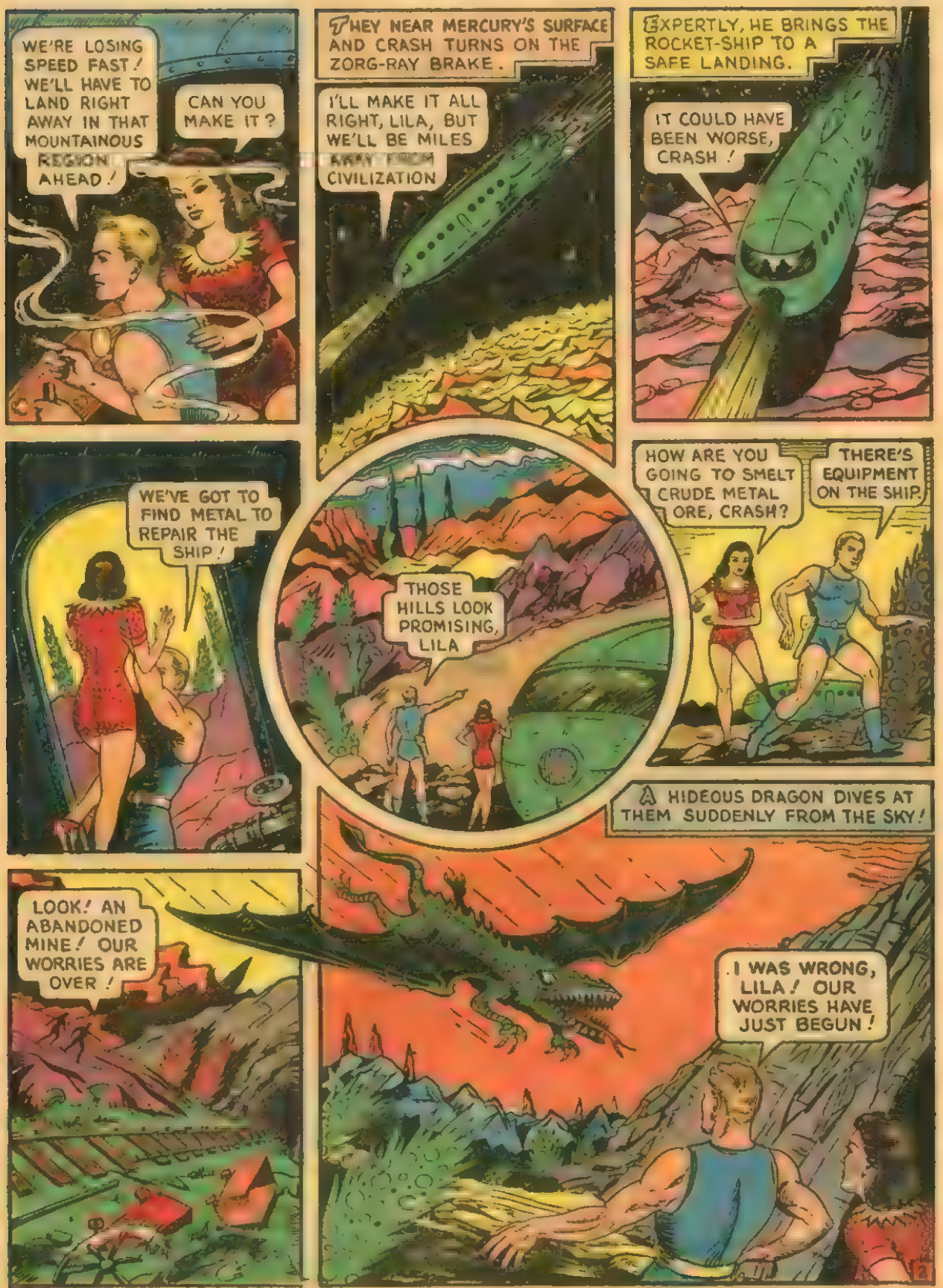


CRASH PARKER

BY S.A. SELWYN



SUDDENLY THERE IS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION! A HOLE IS BLOWN IN THE SIDE OF THE HURTLING ROCKET SHIP!
PART OF THE CARGO MUST HAVE EXPLODED! LUCKY WE'RE CLOSE TO MERCURY!
BOOM!


WE'RE LOSING SPEED FAST! WE'LL HAVE TO LAND RIGHT AWAY IN THAT MOUNTAINOUS REGION AHEAD!
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
THEY NEAR MERCURY'S SURFACE AND CRASH TURNS ON THE ZORG-RAY BRAKE.
I'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT, LILA, BUT WE'LL BE MILES AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION
EXPERTLY, HE BRINGS THE ROCKET-SHIP TO A SAFE LANDING.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE, CRASH!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND METAL TO REPAIR THE SHIP!
THOSE HILLS LOOK PROMISING, LILA
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SMELT CRUDE METAL ORE, CRASH?
THERE'S EQUIPMENT ON THE SHIP.
A HIDEOUS DRAGON DIVES AT THEM SUDDENLY FROM THE SKY!
LOOK! AN ABANDONED MINE! OUR WORRIES ARE OVER!
I WAS WRONG, LILA! OUR WORRIES HAVE JUST BEGUN!

WHIPPING OUT HIS RAY-GUN, CRASH BLASTS THE DRAGON'S HEAD FROM ITS BODY .....
BUT THE MONSTER INSTANTLY GROWS A NEW HEAD AND CHARGES THEM AGAIN !
INTO THE MINE, LILA! -MY GUN IS USELESS AGAINST THIS THING!
THEY FLEE BEFORE THE WEIRD BEAST..
...AND RACE THROUGH AN ANCIENT DOORWAY.
THIS OUGHT TO HOLD IT AWHILE !
SUDDENLY -!
WHAT NOW?
GET 'EM UP, YOU TWO !
WHY, YOU'RE EARTHMEN!
3

I AM MUNOS, LAST OF THE EARTHMEN WHO MINED HERE. -ALL WERE SLAIN BY DRAGONS, BUT THIS WEAPON SAVED ME! IT SHOOTS A MINERAL DUST THAT'S FATAL TO THE MONSTERS!
HAVE YOU METAL SUITABLE FOR REPAIRING OUR SHIP, ? MUNOS ?
YES, I WILL LEAD YOU TO IT. WILL YOU TAKE ME ALONG WHEN YOU GO?
OF COURSE!
I WAS BLUFFING WHEN I HELD YOU UP. MY DRAGON-GUN IS HARMLESS TO MEN! THE ZIKORS DO NOT FEAR ME!
WHAT ARE THE ZIKORS?
THE ZIKORS ARE BEAST-MEN! PRAY WE DO NOT MEET THEM!
THERE'S DAYLIGHT AHEAD, CRASH! WE'RE COMING INTO THE OPEN!
IT'S THE ZIKORS!
THEY EMERGE IN THE MIDST OF A BAND OF HIDEOUS ONE-EYED HORNED SAVAGES!
4

HOWLING, THE ZIKORS CHARGE...
...BUT CRASH MOWS THEM DOWN WITH HIS RAY-GUN!
THEIR CHIEF FALLS...
...AND THE SAVAGES RETREAT IN PANIC!
SUDDENLY..
..A DRAGON SWOOPS DOWN
CRASH! HELP!
STOP! YOU'LL KILL LILA!
THEN THE FIERCE ZIKORS ATTACK AGAIN...
5

...BUT BEFORE CRASH'S DEADLY FIRE THEY FLEE ONCE MORE!

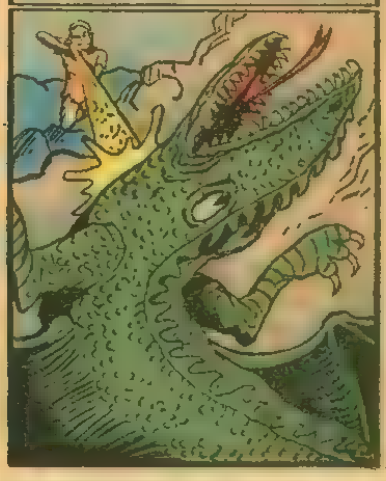
THE DRAGON HAS DISAPPEARED WITH LILA.

THEY ARRIVE JUST AS THE DRAGON IS ABOUT TO DEVOUR ITS PREY!

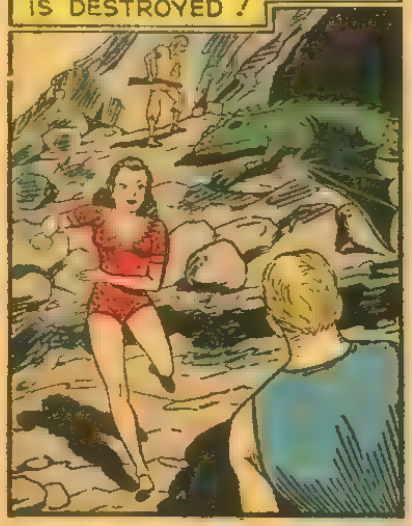
HOLDING THE BEAST'S JAWS SHUT, CRASH CLUBS IT WITH THE BUTT OF HIS RAY-GUN!

THE DRAGON HURLS HIM OFF...

...AND CROUCHES FOR A SPRING - BUT MUNOS LETS GO WITH HIS ODD WEAPON..



...AND THE EVIL CREATURE IS DESTROYED!

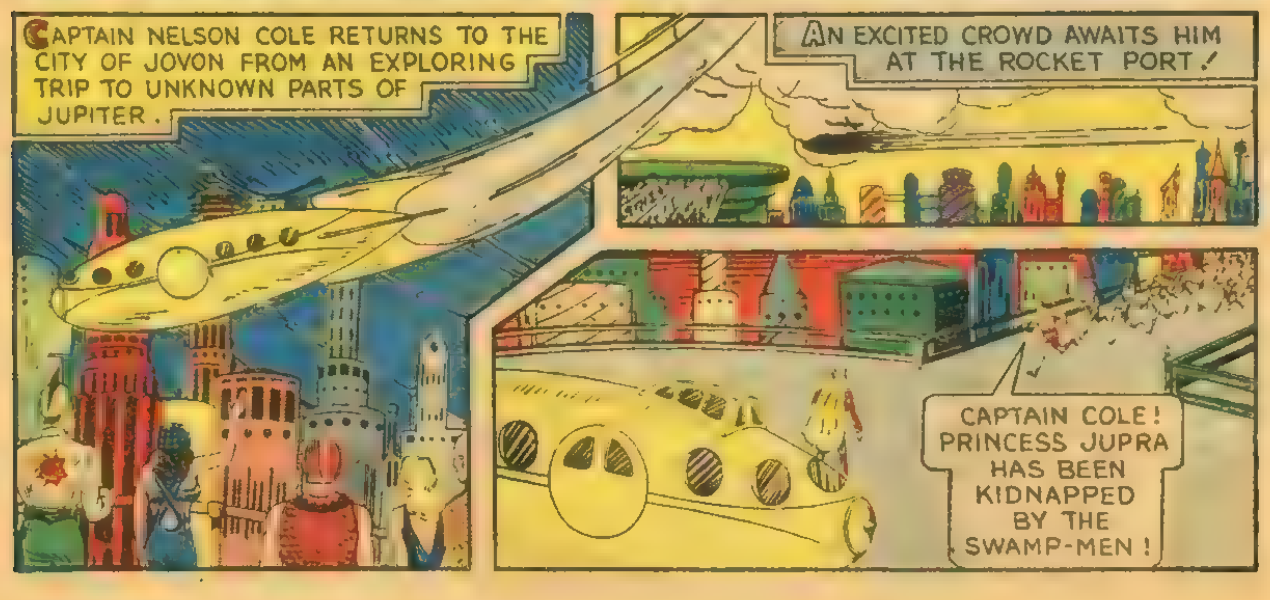


CRASH REPAIRS THE SHIP WITH METAL FROM THE MINE.

CRASH PARKER BATTLES NEW TERRORS IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS! 6

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

Captain Nelson Cole


CAPTAIN NELSON COLE RETURNS TO THE CITY OF JOVON FROM AN EXPLORING TRIP TO UNKNOWN PARTS OF JUPITER.
AN EXCITED CROWD AWAITS HIM AT THE ROCKET PORT!
CAPTAIN COLE! PRINCESS JUPRA HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE SWAMP-MEN!

COLE HURRIES TO KING JUXOR'S PALACE . . . .

IF WE ATTACK THE SWAMP-MENS' CITY, THEY WILL KILL JUPRA !

SWITCHING ON APPARATUS THAT MAKES THE SHIP ALMOST INVISIBLE, HE HOVERS OVER THE BOG.

-THEN I'VE GOT TO GO ALONE !

'SWAMP-MEN ! MAYBE THEY'LL LEAD ME TO JUPRA !

A BAND OF SCALY SAVAGES MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE TREACHEROUS MIRE.

COLE FOLLOWS OVERHEAD, SILENT AS A GHOST.

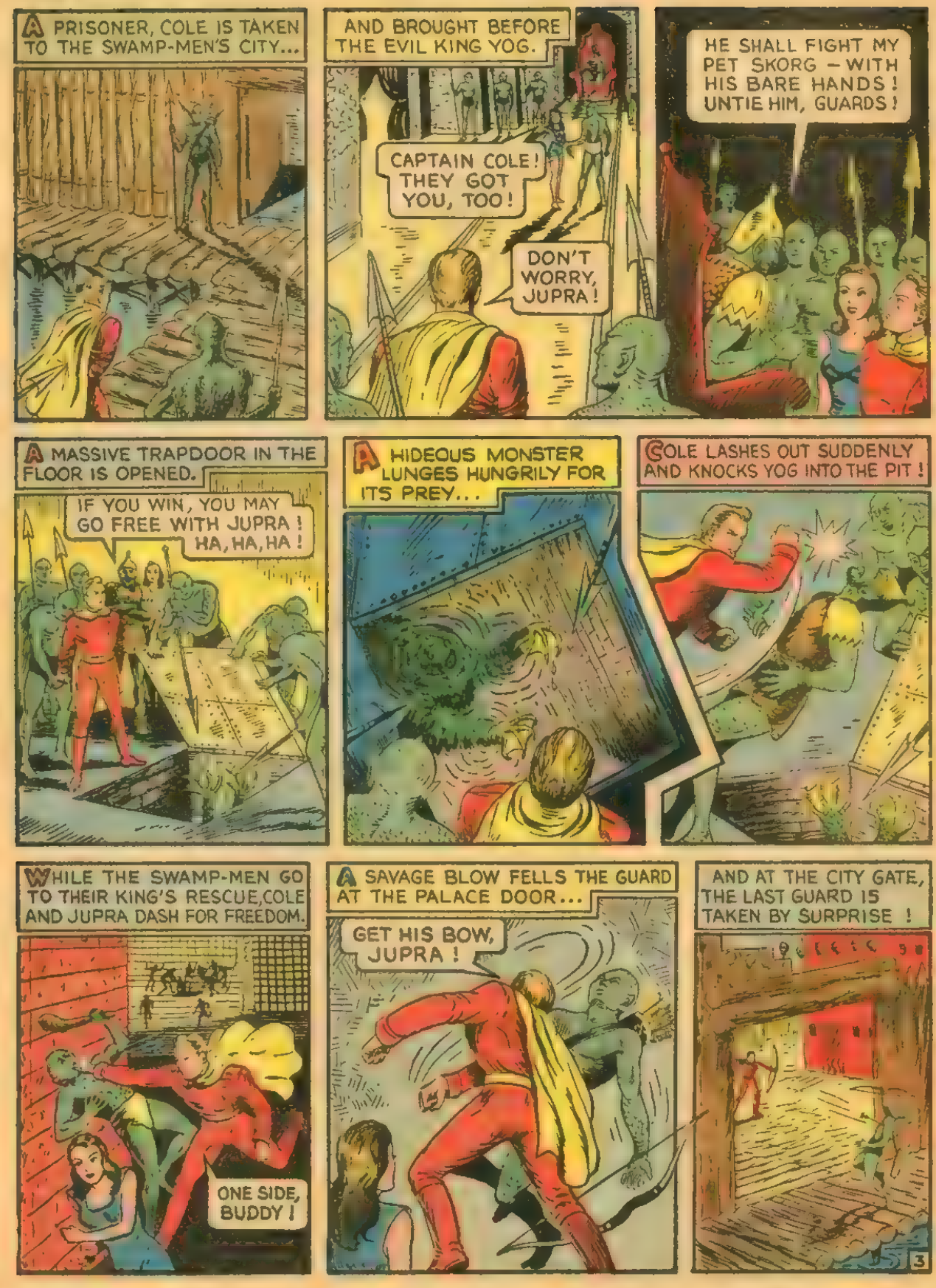
SO THAT'S WHERE THEY HANG OUT !

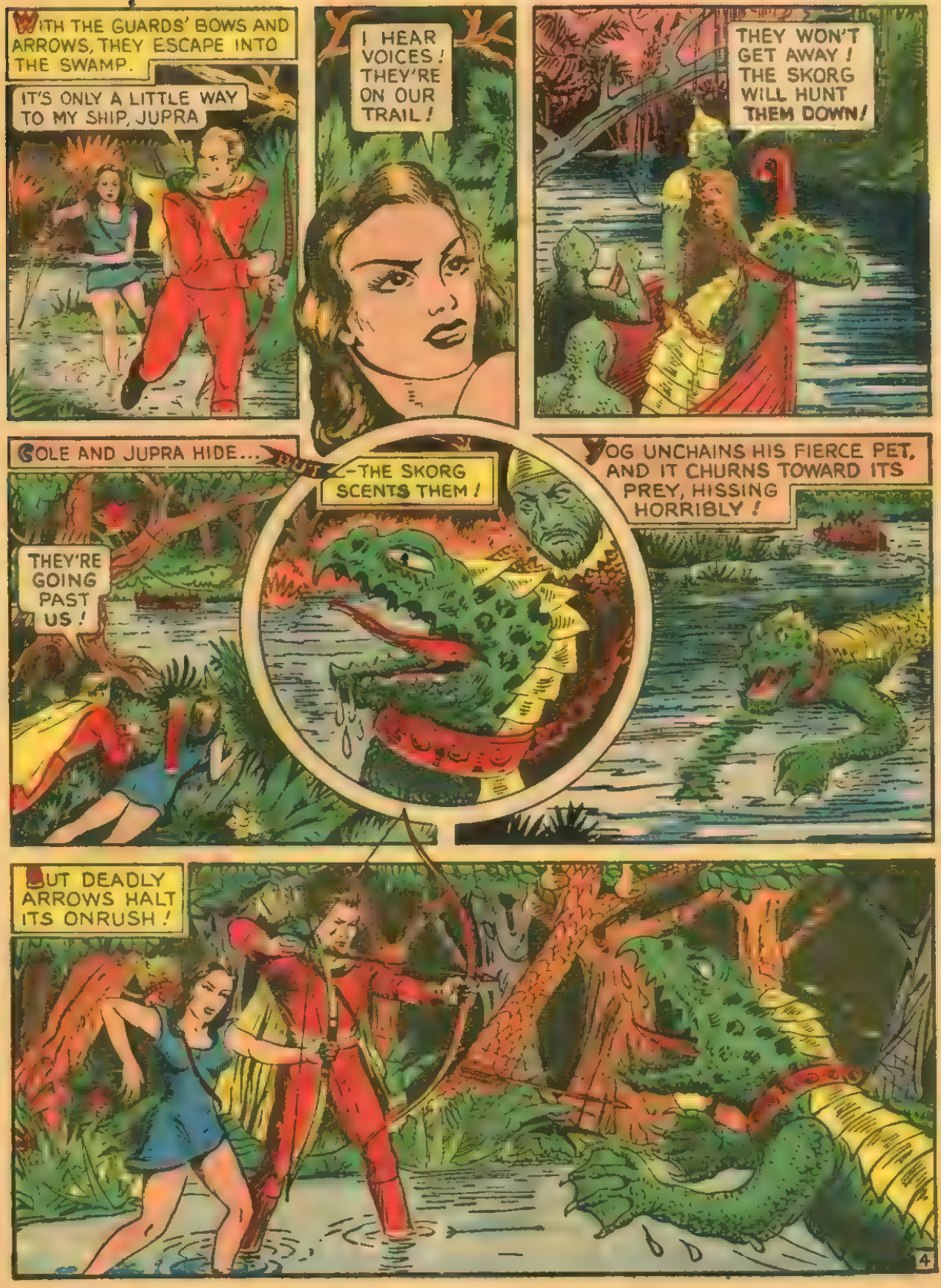
HE LANDS ON A SMALL ROCKY ISLAND . . .

I HOPE THOSE MONKEYS DON'T FIND THE SHIP !

COLE RACES TOWARD THE CITY . . . BUT LURKING SWAMP-MEN SEE HIM . . .

AND SET UPON HIM FROM BEHIND WITH FLAILING CLUBS!


A PRISONER, COLE IS TAKEN TO THE SWAMP-MEN'S CITY...
AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE EVIL KING YOG.
CAPTAIN COLE! THEY GOT YOU, TOO!
DON'T WORRY, JUPRA!
HE SHALL FIGHT MY PET SKORG — WITH HIS BARE HANDS! UNTIE HIM, GUARDS!
A MASSIVE TRAPDOOR IN THE FLOOR IS OPENED.
IF YOU WIN, YOU MAY GO FREE WITH JUPRA! HA, HA, HA!
A HIDEOUS MONSTER LUNGES HUNGRILY FOR ITS PREY...
COLE LASHES OUT SUDDENLY AND KNOCKS YOG INTO THE PIT!
WHILE THE SWAMP-MEN GO TO THEIR KING'S RESCUE, COLE AND JUPRA DASH FOR FREEDOM.
ONE SIDE, BUDDY!
A SAVAGE BLOW FELLS THE GUARD AT THE PALACE DOOR...
GET HIS BOW, JUPRA!
AND AT THE CITY GATE, THE LAST GUARD IS TAKEN BY SURPRISE!
3


WITH THE GUARDS' BOWS AND ARROWS, THEY ESCAPE INTO THE SWAMP.
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE WAY TO MY SHIP, JUPRA
I HEAR VOICES! THEY'RE ON OUR TRAIL!
THEY WON'T GET AWAY! THE SKORG WILL HUNT THEM DOWN!
COLE AND JUPRA HIDE... BUT
THEY'RE GOING PAST US!
—THE SKORG SCENTS THEM!
YOG UNCHAINS HIS FIERCE PET, AND IT CHURNS TOWARD ITS PREY, HISSING HORRIBLY!
BUT DEADLY ARROWS HALT ITS ONRUSH!
4

ENRAGED, YOG AND HIS WARRIORS CLOSE IN. AN ARROW FELLS ONE..

AND COLE'S SLEDGEHAMMER RIGHT ACCOUNTS FOR ANOTHER...

BUT YOG'S CLUB ENDS THE FIGHT!

UNCONSCIOUS, COLE IS TOSSED INTO THE CANOE.

ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CITY, HE COMES TO HIS SENSES....

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! I'M NO GOOD TO JUPRA THIS WAY!

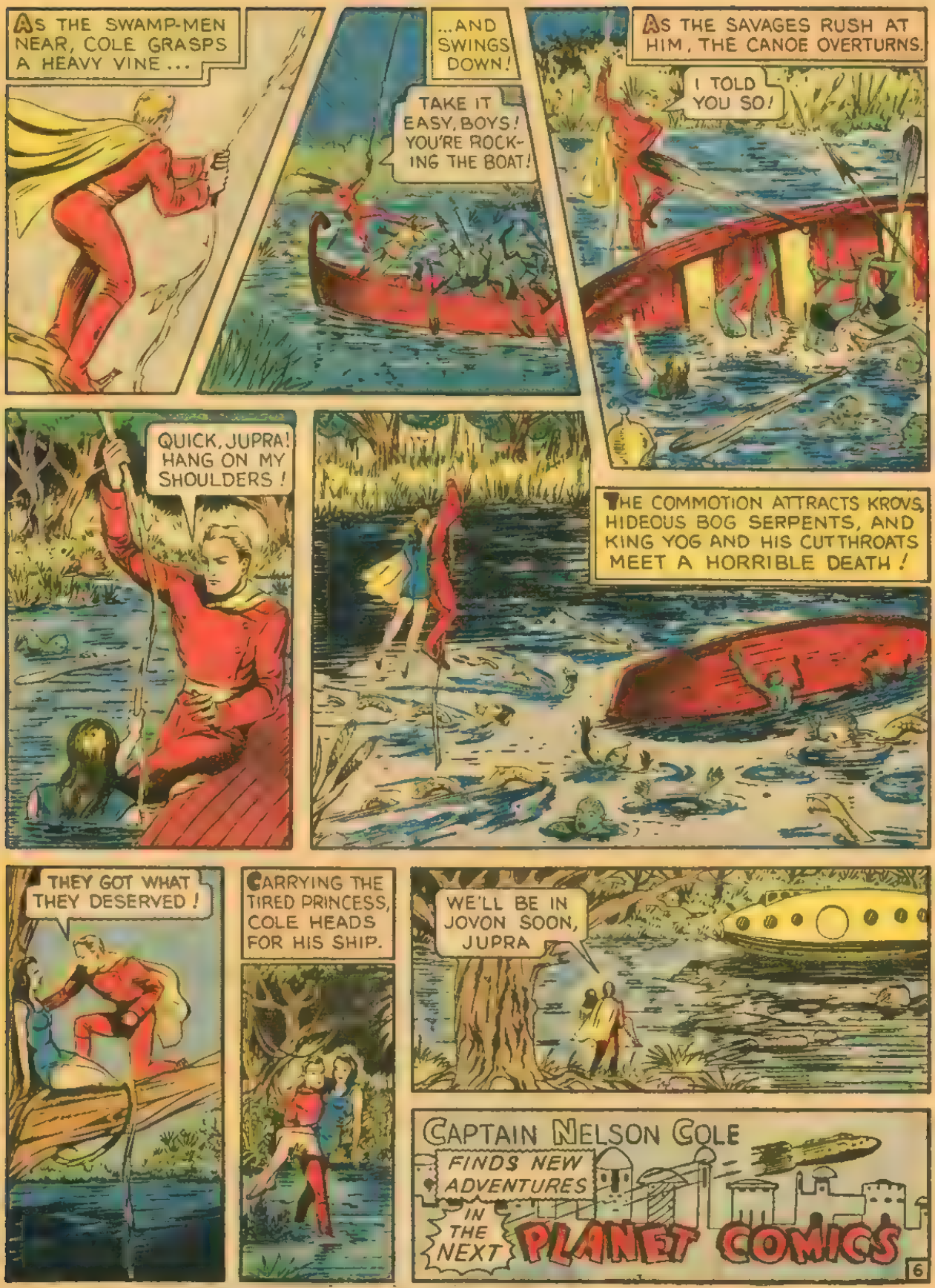
SUDDENLY, HE DIVES OVERBOARD!

SWIMMING RAPIDLY UNDERWATER, COLE MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE.

THE SWAMP-MEN GO THE WRONG WAY!

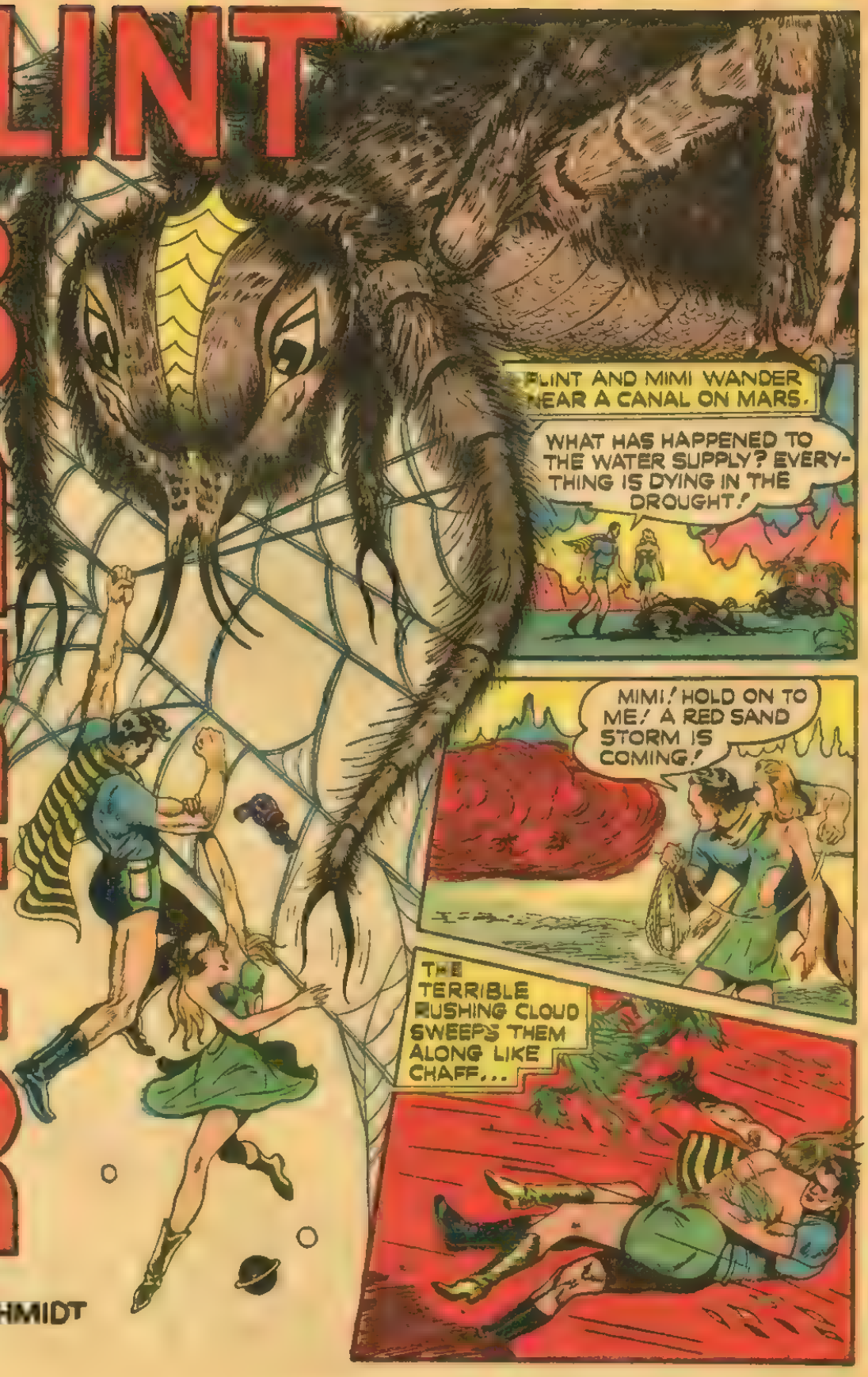
RACING AHEAD OF THE BOAT...

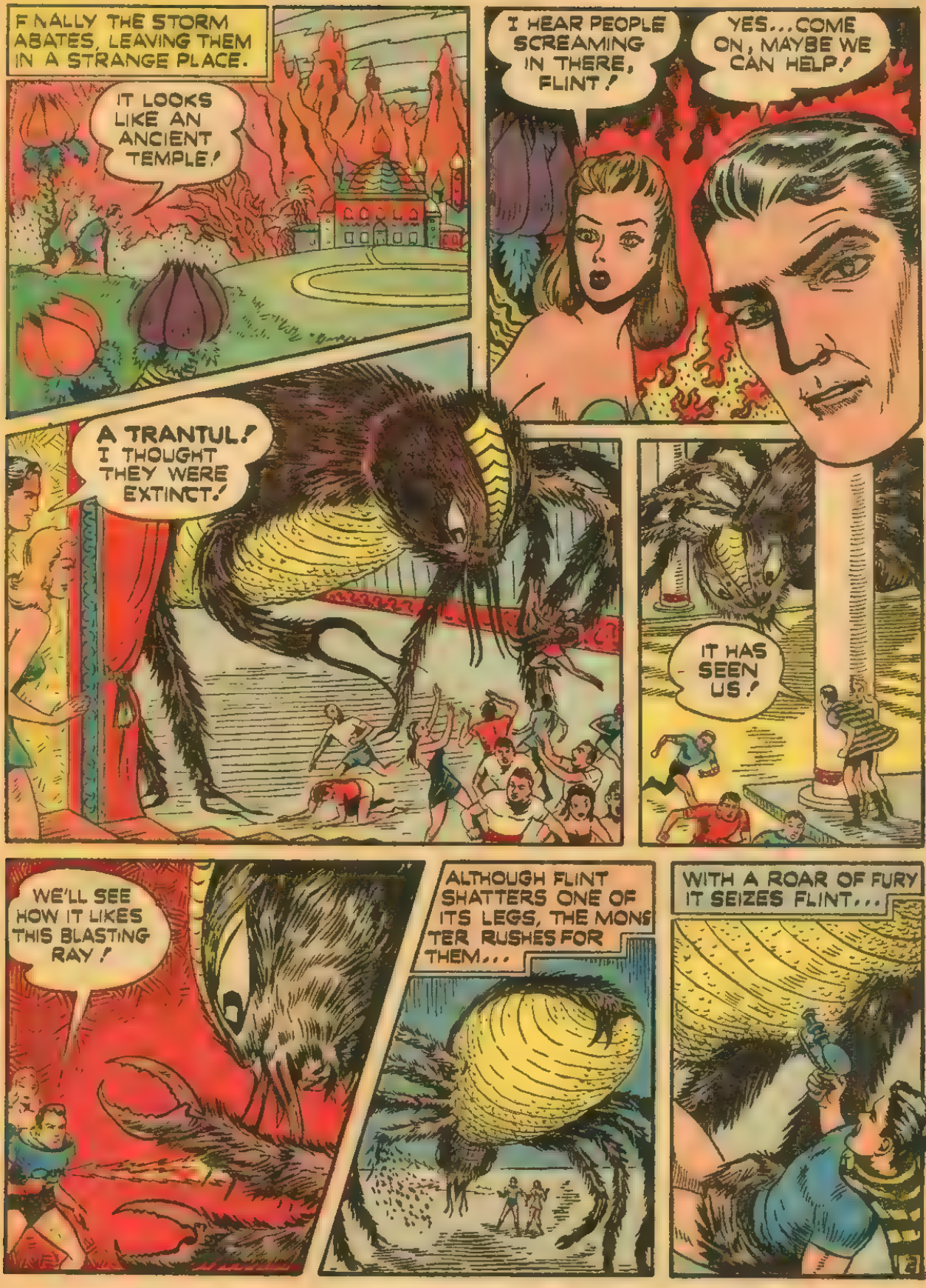
COLE CLIMBS A TREE JUTTING OUT OVER THE CANOE'S COURSE.


AS THE SWAMP-MEN NEAR, COLE GRASPS A HEAVY VINE...
...AND SWINGS DOWN!
TAKE IT EASY, BOYS! YOU'RE ROCKING THE BOAT!
AS THE SAVAGES RUSH AT HIM, THE CANOE OVERTURNS.
I TOLD YOU SO!
QUICK, JUPRA! HANG ON MY SHOULDERS!
THE COMMOTION ATTRACTS KROVS, HIDEOUS BOG SERPENTS, AND KING YOG AND HIS CUTTHROATS MEET A HORRIBLE DEATH!
THEY GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED!
CARRYING THE TIRED PRINCESS, COLE HEADS FOR HIS SHIP.
WE'LL BE IN JOVON SOON, JUPRA
CAPTAIN NELSON COLE FINDS NEW ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS
6

FLINT BAKER

BY AL SCHMIDT


FLINT AND MIMI WANDER NEAR A CANAL ON MARS.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE WATER SUPPLY? EVERYTHING IS DYING IN THE DROUGHT!
MIMI! HOLD ON TO ME! A RED SAND STORM IS COMING!
THE TERRIBLE RUSHING CLOUD SWEEPS THEM ALONG LIKE CHAFF...

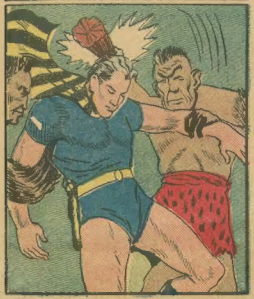

FINALLY THE STORM ABATES, LEAVING THEM IN A STRANGE PLACE.
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ANCIENT TEMPLE!
I HEAR PEOPLE SCREAMING IN THERE, FLINT!
YES...COME ON, MAYBE WE CAN HELP!
A TRANTUL! I THOUGHT THEY WERE EXTINCT!
IT HAS SEEN US!
WE'LL SEE HOW IT LIKES THIS BLASTING RAY!
ALTHOUGH FLINT SHATTERS ONE OF ITS LEGS, THE MONSTER RUSHES FOR THEM...
WITH A ROAR OF FURY IT SEIZES FLINT...

BUT FLINT'S RAY-GUN SERVES HIM WELL!
GOT HIM... AND NONE TOO SOON!
THE GRATEFUL MARTIANS SURROUND FLINT.
WE WERE PRAYING TO END THE DROUGHT WHEN THE TRANTULS RUSHED DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS!
PERHAPS THE REASON FOR THE DROUGHT IS IN THE MOUNTAINS... I'LL GO AND INVESTIGATE!
FLINT AND MIMI CLIMB TOWARD THE SNOWY PEAKS.
WE SHOULD BE NEARING THE TOP SOON.
MIMI! LOOK OUT!
FLINT TRIES TO CATCH HER.
BUT SHE FALLS INTO THE CHASM.
3

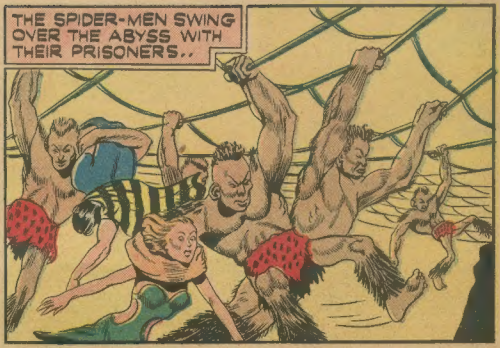
IF I CAN JUST DROP THE NOOSE AROUND HER!
CRACK
FLINT PULLS MIMI TO SAFETY...
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL!
THEY WALK THROUGH A ROCKY TUNNEL HIGH IN THE PEAKS...
AT LAST! THERE'S THE END OF IT!
AS THEY LEAVE THE TUNNEL MIMI GASPS IN ASTONISHMENT.
IT'S LIKE A HUGE SPIDER WEB, FLINT!
AND THERE ARE THE PIPES THAT BRING WATER TO MARS!
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK AT THEM!
A TRANTUL IS AFTER US!
4

YOU HIT IT, FLINT! IT'S BACKING OFF!
THEY RUSH TO THE VITAL WATER PIPES.
THE OPENINGS HAVE BEEN CLOGGED WITH BOULDERS!
NO WONDER THE DROUGHT SET IN... THIS IS A DIABOLICAL PLOT, MIMI!
STAND CLEAR WHILE I PULVERIZE THE BOULDERS!
UNSEEN BY FLINT, STRANGE SPIDER MEN SWING UP UNDER HIM.
THEY ATTACK!
WHERE DID YOU APES COME FROM?
YOU MUST BE THE ONES WHO DAMMED UP THE PIPES!

FLINT FIGHTS DESPERATELY BUT IS OVERPOWERED..

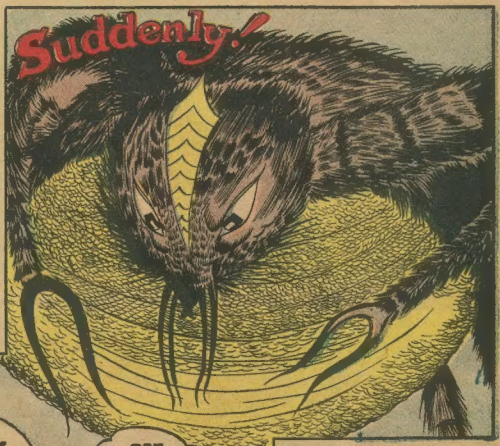


THE SPIDER-MEN SWING OVER THE ABYSS WITH THEIR PRISONERS..



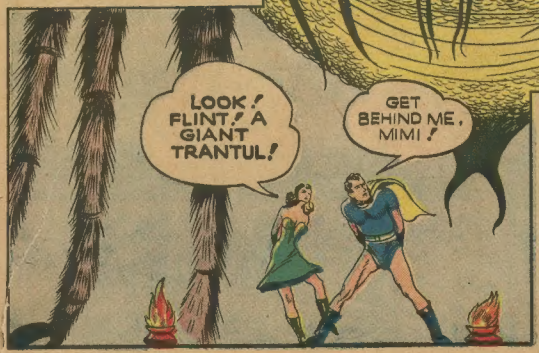
FLINT AND MIMI ARE CAST DOWN INTO A GLOOMY CAVE.

Suddenly!



LOOK! FLINT! A GIANT TRANTUL!

GET BEHIND ME, MIMI!



FLINT STRAINS WITH ALL HIS FORCE AND HIS BONDS SNAP!

THE FEROCIOUS MONSTER SWEEPS FLINT HIGH IN A DEADLY CRUSHING GRIP.

IF THIS SHOT DOESN'T BLAST HIS HEART, WE'RE THROUGH!

FLINT'S AIM IS TRUE AND THE TRANTUL DROPS DEAD...

NOW TO UNTIE MIMI AND GET OUT OF HERE!

THEY CLIMB TO THE OPENING OVER THE HUGE, HAIRY BODY...

RUN, MIMI! I'LL HOLD OFF THESE SPIDER MEN!

THEY RACE ACROSS THE WEB AND FLINT BLASTS THE SUPPORTING STRANDS....

HOW CAN WE ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE?

WE'LL HAVE TO SLIDE DOWN THROUGH THE WATER PIPES.. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

CARRIED SWIFTLY BY NEWLY-RELEASED WATER THEY SOON APPROACH THE OPEN

THEY SPILL OUT INTO A CANAL NEAR A MARTIAN CITY.

FLINT, YOU HAVE SAVED MARS FROM THE DROUGHT!

7

FLINT BAKER FINDS NEW THRILLS IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS

THE 4 ACES OF THE PACK!

64 pages of fast-action entertainment

Why Guess? Get the Best—

LOOK FOR THE BULL'S-EYE WHEN YOU BUY!

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100 BLANK CARTRIDGES. Shipped by Express, Not Prepaid. 50c

PEA-MATIC REPEATER-22 SHOT

HARMLESS ACCURATE

Shoots 15 Feet

Here it is, boys! It shoots 15 feet—anywhere you want without reloading. Just load the gun with peas, pull the trigger and keep firing until the barrel is empty. Then reload and fire again. It is really harmless and safe. They will not even sting or sting more than a mosquito bite. Loads from breech. Lasts a long time. With target. ONLY 29c

29 Shots

Peas for Peamatic, Price Per Package.. 10c

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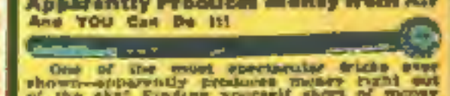

One of the most spectacular tricks ever shown—apparently produces money right out of the sky! Finding yourself short of money you touch any object with the Magic Wand and produce coins, one after the other without end! Anyone can do it with this wand. Price Postpaid 25c

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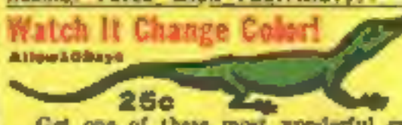

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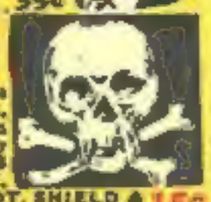

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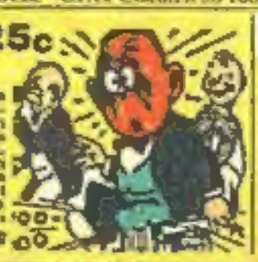

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